Entertainment / A35

CNN'S Veronica Pedrosa one of 100 sexiest?

Infotech / B15

Blackberry 7230: E-mail in pocket

World / A13

Mystery donor drops gold coins into Salvation Army pot

Lifestyle / D1

Artists go natural

Tanong ng Bayan / A25

Pasko sa taghirap, dapat pa bang magpasarap?

Win a 21" TV. Text 2910, watch INQ TV!

Not so festive Christmas for local decor makers

CHEERFUL, gaily colored Christmas decorations from the Philippines adorn the shop windows at Bloomingdale's in New York and Harrods in London—but at home, the makers of such products are not in festive mood.

The country's once-booming Christmas decorations industry finds itself increasingly under siege from China and other Asian coun-

NOT SO/ A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

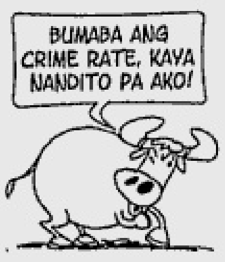
PNP says streets have become safer

By Christian Esguerra

HAVE you been feeling safer at home or in the streets lately?

By the Philippine National Police's reckoning, you should be. That's be-

PNP SAYS/ A6


BUMABA ANG CRIME RATE, KAYA NANDITO PA AKO!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Monday, December 20, 2004 ★★ 76 pages / 6 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 12 P18

website: www.inq7.net

'Politics-free FPJ funeral'

Balloons, butterflies to grace KC burial

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Nancy C. Carvajal

WHEN Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. arrived with his wife Gina at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, he was carrying the urn that contained the ashes of their daughter Ma. Kristina Casimira or "KC."

According to Gina's sister, Marichu Maceda, the heartbroken couple take the urn with them every night after the prayer vigil.

"He wants the urn with him all the time. He brings it back here (Santuario) for the Mass and the vigil," Maceda said.

KC, the De Venecias' youngest daughter, died early Friday morning in a fire which destroyed their Dasmariñas Village home. She was only 16.

Leslie Norton, De Venecia's daughter from a previous marriage, said the Speaker would bring the urn to his room at the Dusit Hotel "to say goodbye."

"It has been a very rough time for the family," Norton, who arrived from New York last night, said. "They want to be close to their daughter."

Norton remembers "how light and joyous KC was" and "how interested she was in the world ... She was a lovely girl ... I'm heartbroken," she said.

Maceda, an avid supporter of Fernando Poe Jr. and a close friend of Susan Roces, also ex-

BALLOONS/ A6

IT MAY BE a time for mourning but for this street hawker outside Sto. Domingo Church it is also a time to do brisk business selling vests stamped with the initials of the late Fernando Poe Jr. FPJ is to be buried Wednesday at the North Cemetery. AFP

Massive turnout at wake a warning to elite

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE DEATH of Fernando Poe Jr. is being blown up into a grotesque caricature that distorts the impact of his demise on the political life of this country.

Poe's contribution to his vocation as an actor and to the film industry is beyond dispute. His claim to fame went beyond the silver screen when he morphed from an actor into a politician. He had the audacity to storm no less than the commanding heights of Philippine politics—the presidency. When he succumbed to a fatal stroke, he was a failed politician.

If Poe had died without having stood for president, there would be no doubt that tens of thousands of his movie fans and admirers would have deeply mourned his passing.

The multitudes that have filed past his body during the wake of the past few days are grieving that they have lost an alter ego—a person whose manifold movie roles incarnated the aspirations of the disadvantaged Filipino masses for justice and a better life.

The most accurate tribute ever paid to Poe was that which described him as the icon of the unfulfilled aspirations of the Filipino underdog who had identified with him in his film roles battling abusive and corrupt authority and oppressors, and coming to the rescue of the weak.

Poe was the lightning rod of these aspirations that have for many generations been looking

MASSIVE/ A6

Susan Roces appeals to supporters of 'Da King'

By Edson Tandoc Jr., Luige A. del Puerto and Fe Zamora

A SOLEMN funeral fit for a man loved by the people.

This was the appeal aired yesterday by Fernando Poe Jr.'s widow, movie actress Susan Roces, as she and her family stepped up preparations for what is expected to be a blockbuster of a funeral at the North Cemetery on Wednesday.

"*Walang pulitika* (No politics)," Roces said, when asked what her marching orders were to FPJ's supporters. "That's to everyone and everyone agrees."

"We are safeguarding that that does not happen," she added, referring to an opposition senator's warning that the huge throngs expected to attend the funeral may get out of control and adventurists might use the occasion to destabilize the government.

The widow spoke to reporters in a lobby of the Sto. Domingo Church where FPJ's remains lie as stream upon stream of mourners, most of them ordinary people and many carrying cameras to take pictures of the dead movie king, plodded past the gleaming coffin.

In a dark suit with a light blue tie, FPJ lies in a maroon coffin amid white blossoms.

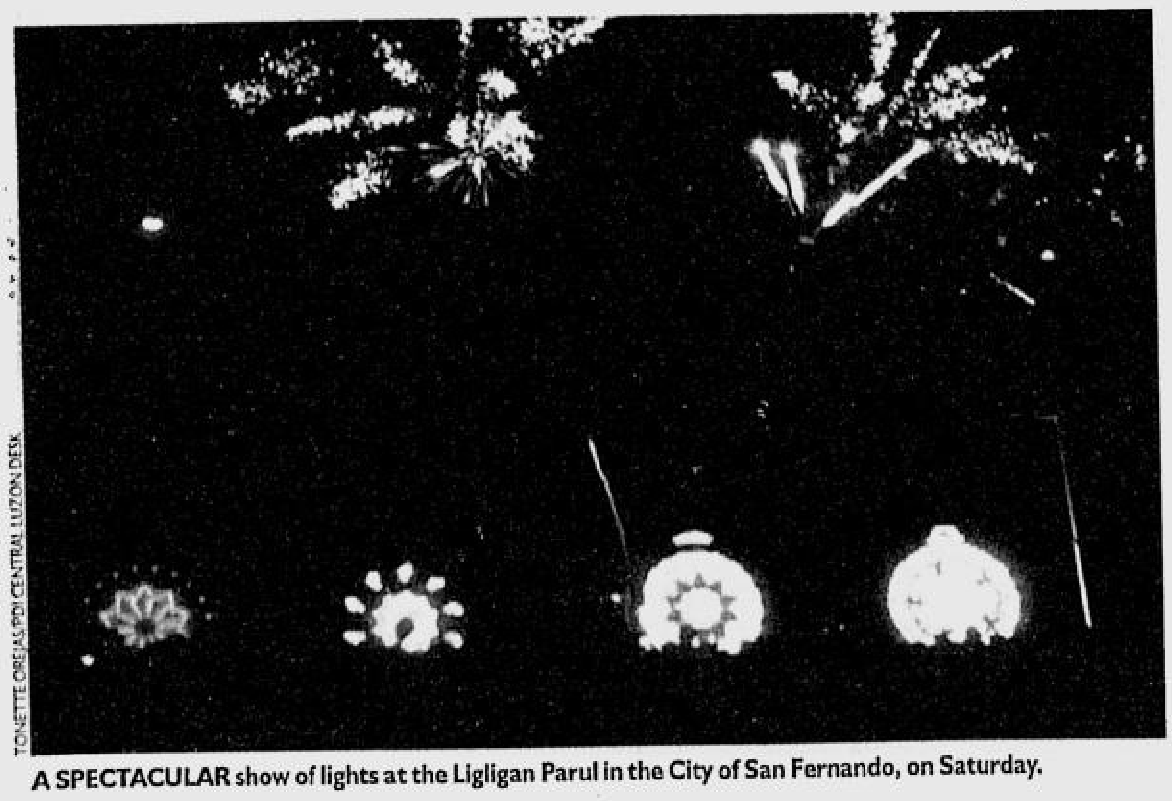
"Our supporters are helping us to make sure that [the funeral] will not be tarnished by politics," Roces said.

Queried about a statement by opposition leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. that political opportunists might use the funeral for political ends, Roces said: "I do not sense, I do not hear and I do not think that will happen. All come here to pay their respects for my husband. It is enough that they catch even a glimpse of him."

FPJ's younger brother, Conrad, rejected the idea that some people would turn the funeral march into a political forum. FPJ himself would not want to take advantage of other people and he would not want other people to take advantage of him, Conrad said.

"Let us put a stop to this [politics], even for just a while," Conrad said, adding that his brother did not condone violence. "Let us bear him peacefully to his resting place. Let us not wreck the occasion ... Let us keep to ourselves whatever we feel inside that could erupt," he said.

POLITICS-FREE/ A6



TONETTE OREJAS/PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

A SPECTACULAR show of lights at the Ligligan Parul in the City of San Fernando, on Saturday.

Lanterns prove RP can achieve synergy

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Nine giant lanterns, the modern versions of the Star of Bethlehem, dazzled some 60,000 local and foreign spectators at the amphitheater of SM City Pampanga here on Saturday.

The lanterns—each 5.63 meters in diameter and fitted with 4,000 to 6,000 light bulbs—were the "stars" in this year's Ligligan Parul (Giant Lantern Festival).

Borne on trucks, displayed in a row and accompanied by the images of the villages' patron saints, the lanterns put on a spectacular display under skies illuminated by a half-moon and a handful of stars.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, the festival's guest, said the lanterns signified the Filipino's ability to rise above hard times, noting the tragedies that had befallen the country this year.

Roxas also likened the lanterns to Filipinos. They come from diverse backgrounds, but when they unite, they can work to push the country forward and into progress. They are like lanterns, where elements—color, shape, material, light source—work together in a synchronized manner.

LANTERNS/ A9

Cebuano nurse makes it big in Nevada

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—He used to rummage through the neighborhood trash for whatever could be sold to the nearest "*timbangan*" (junk shop) to augment his school allowance. But he does not have to do that now.

He has come a long way—from an urban poor community here to the glittering world of Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, where he was recently named "Nurse of the Year."

Rhigel Tan, 35, the only child of a retired schoolteacher and retired policeman, did not expect to win. His mind went blank when his name was called during the awarding ceremonies on Nov. 13 at the grand ballroom of the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Although he did not prepare a speech, Tan did not forget the promise he made to himself in case he won. He closed his message to the crowd of 700 that included state officials and medical practitioners with "Thank you ... *maraming salamat ... daghang salamat.*"

In an e-mail to the INQUIRER, Tan said he did this "so people would know where I came from or at least would wonder what I said, and would end up asking."

Tan grew up in Barangay Duljo here, which he described as "a total picture of what poverty is all about." He recalled that although both his parents were working, money was scarce and hardship was on the "everyday menu."

He would do his share to help his parents. In the summer, Tan would sell "bananacue" and boiled eggs in the neighborhood. To earn additional money, he would scavenge the trash for tin cans, empty bottles and wrought iron.

He enjoyed doing these because his mother had once told him that there was nothing shameful about earning an honest living.

Tan said he had found his calling while taking care of pigs, which his mother raised to help pay the bills

CEBUANO/ A8

RHIGEL Tan, flanked by his father Rogelio and mother Yolanda, shows off his award as "Nurse of the Year" in the advance practice category.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/12/20/04

GMA stands by her men, women

ARROYO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will stand by her Cabinet and other government appointees who fail to make it past the Commission on Appointments.

"The President will reappoint them once they are bypassed," said Communications Director Silvestre Afable in an interview yesterday.

Afable also reiterated the President's continued confidence in her appointees who had been bypassed by the CA, such as Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes and Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Saturday Reyes and Garcillano should quit their posts and let the President name their replacements since being bypassed by the CA was tantamount to having their nominations rejected.

But Afable said the bypassed appointees continued to have Ms Arroyo's support, particularly Reyes who was recently named to head the revived National Anti-Smuggling Task Force as well.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, who received the CA's nod last week, said the President was satisfied with the performance of her appointees. He said lack of time more than lack of qualifications was the main reason some appointees were bypassed by the CA.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Reds thumb down ceasefire, peace talks with gov't

By TJ Burgonio
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE RESUMPTION of formal peace talks between the government and communist rebels is now unlikely after the latter accused the government of seeking their "capitulation" as a precondition.

At the same time, the communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines rejected the unilateral ceasefire declared by the government, branding it as "tricky psywar."

Fidel Agcaoili, chair of the NDF committee on human rights, said the group "desired" the resumption of formal peace talks with the government.

"But the prospects for such resumption under the Arroyo regime are dim," Agcaoili said in a statement, citing the government's resolve "to impose as a precondition the capitulation of the NDF under the guise of an indefinite ceasefire," among other things.

This, he said, violated The Hague Joint Declaration.

Tricky psywar

"The NDF considers as tricky psywar the so-called unilateral ceasefire issued by the GRP for the Christmas and New Year holidays and is calling on the people and the revolutionary forces to be vigilant against the treacherous acts of the military, police, paramilitary and private armed gangs of the regime," Agcaoili said.

The government had voiced hopes the unilateral ceasefire it had declared with the New People's Army would lead to a permanent ceasefire.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the government would welcome a reciprocal action from the rebels, but "it would be more beneficial if both the government and the CPP-NPA can come up with a lasting ceasefire,"

President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a ceasefire with the rebels from Dec. 16 to Jan. 5, replicating what has become a tradition during the Christmas season.

Agcaoili, who co-chairs the NDF-government joint monitoring committee, also cited other reasons for the gloomy prospects for the peace talks.

US collaboration

These include the government's collaboration with the US "in using the so-called terrorist listing" to blackmail the NDF and extort capitulation; the huge role played by the US in crafting the administration policy on peace negotiations, and the impending ouster of the Arroyo administration by an outraged people.

He also accused the US and the GRP of threatening to assassinate Europe-based panelists and consultants of the NDF, especially NDF chief political consultant Prof. Jose Maria Sison.

"They are trying to kill the GRP-NDF peace negotiations completely in order to make way for the escalation of US military intervention and for the increased US stranglehold on the Philippine neocolony," he said.

Bello surprised

Silvestre Bello, the government's chief negotiator, was taken aback by reports that the NPA rebels had turned down the government's appeal for a Christmas ceasefire.

"We're surprised. I just talked to Fidel Agcaoili and he said they were studying reciprocating the government's offer," Bello said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the government would not take back its offer of a Christmas ceasefire although the military and police have been ordered to go on full alert.

The communist rebels called off peace talks with the government in August, accusing Malacañang of not doing enough to persuade international governments to remove them from their list of foreign terrorist organizations.

Agcaoli described the terrorist listing as a violation of The Hague Joint Declaration, the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, which were signed by the NDF and the Philippine government.

Christmas tradition

In an earlier interview, communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said the communist insurgents were also inclined to declare their own ceasefire as part of the Christmas tradition but only in certain areas.

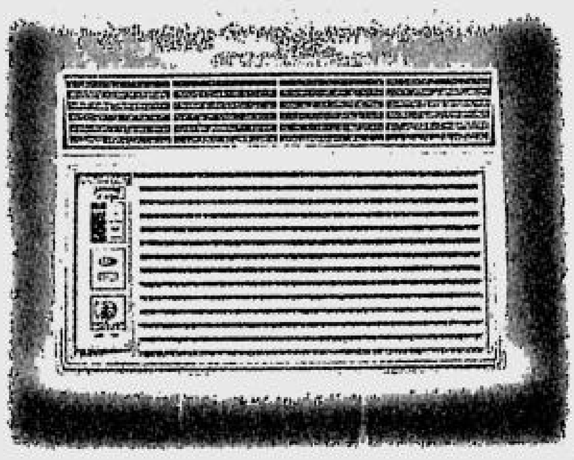
"But we will only do so after a thorough assessment of the party's higher organ and not because that's what the AFP wanted us to do," Rosal said in an interview.

Rosal was reacting to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu's statement on Thursday that the military would recommend the cancellation of the Yuletide truce declared by President Macapagal-Arroyo if it continues with hostile actions.

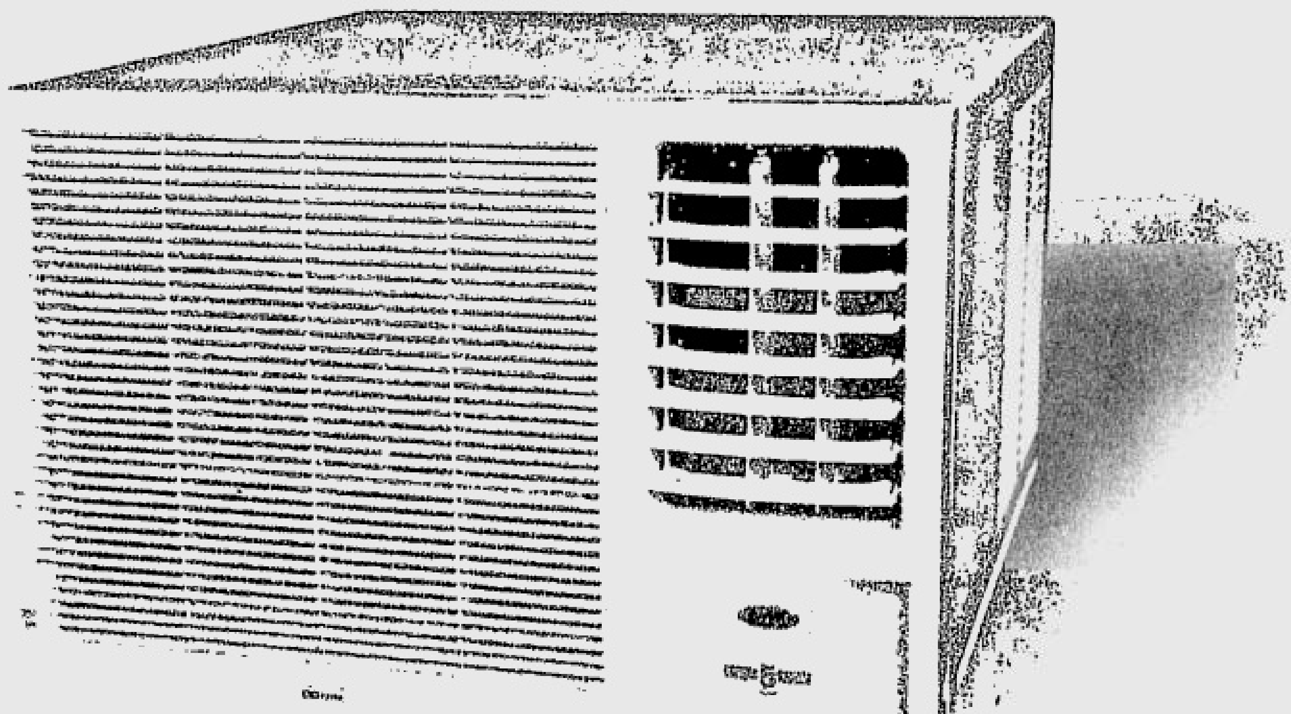
Rosal scoffed at the military saying, "the Red-fighters are not obliged to obey government declared ceasefires."

"The NPA will continue to attack anytime if there's an opening because they don't have any order yet to rest their guns," he said. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

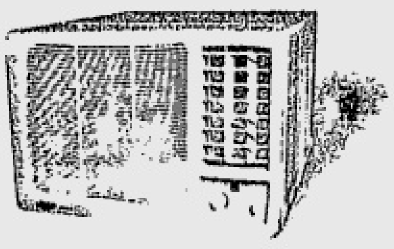
Alas, old friend, you have served me well,
and parting is such sweet sorrow...



But now it's time to have a Carrier that's quieter, more electricity-efficient, with better features like the 5-in-1 BioActive Filter and a 24/7 service center.



And I can have this Carrier at 0% interest for 6 months!*



THIS OFFER AVAILABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING MODELS:
FCA055BP/PP/RP, FCA075BP/PP/RP, FCA095BP/PP/RP, MCA115BP/PP/RP,
WCAR006EA/EC/EE,WCAR008EA/EC/EE, WCAR010EA/EC/EE,WCARM011EA/ED/EE
*Using your Citibank credit card at all Abenson's outlets and other appliance dealers.
Subject to bank approval and applicable only if monthly dues are paid in full.
Offer valid until December 31, 2004.

Come home to a

Carrier

No. 1 in air conditioning

862-5555
CONCEPCION-CARRIER CUSTOMER CARE

FASTXT
0917-8435555
0918-9175555

CONCEPCION-CARRIER
AIR CONDITIONING

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT #6040 SERIES OF 2004

₱1.6B set for homes for typhoon victims

By Christian V. Esguerra and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG has earmarked at least P1.6 billion for the construction and repair of at least 170,000 houses damaged by four recent typhoons, the National Disaster Coordinating Council announced yesterday.

At least 712,981 families stand to be provided with new homes through the "core housing" project being prepared by the NDCC and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman earlier announced that P50,000 would be given to each family whose house was destroyed by the recent storms.

The new houses will be built in areas to be selected by the subcommittee on core housing assessment.

So far, there are nine proposed resettlement sites, four in General Nakar and five in Real, both in Quezon.

Selected areas will be assessed based on the damage caused by the recent typhoons, soil integrity, availability of dumb sites and forest cover, land ownership, condition of waterways and road networks, and the presence of fault lines.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology will determine if the nine areas are fit for housing, considering the presence of the Philippine Fault Segment, an active fault line lying vertically along the boundary of Infanta, Quezon down to Dingalan, Aurora and Nueva Ecija.

The housing committee consists of representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Forest Management Bureau, National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, and Phivolcs.

But while the government has earmarked funds to rebuild the houses of typhoon victims, no funds are forthcoming to rehabilitate damaged schools.

Thus, officials of the Department of Education have turned to the private sector for financial assistance to reconstruct at least 1,180 damaged public schools.

Education Secretary Florencio Abad said they also have to replace thousands of chairs, desks, textbooks and other school materials destroyed by the typhoons.

As of last week, the DepEd had placed the damage to schools at P393.78 million.

But Abad expects the damage to reach half a billion pesos as more towns submit their assessments of damage.

DepEd's P111 billion budget for next year does not provide for such massive school reconstruction.

Abad said the NDCC has pledged to release funds for the 120 public schools that were completely destroyed.

'That's it for bonuses'

THE DEPARTMENT of Budget and Management yesterday told government employees not to expect any more bonuses this month because it had no money to play Santa Claus this Christmas.

"Since we gave out the bonuses very early this year, we have been getting a lot of questions if there was any more coming. We told them that right now, we don't have that," said Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin in an interview over RMN radio.

Boncodin pointed out that the duly mandated 13th-month pay and Christmas cash gift for workers had been distributed in two tranches—the first was given in May shortly before the elections and the second was handed out last month.

The government spent close to P20 billion for the bonuses of the 1.15 million employees of national government agencies this year.

Boncodin said the government was in an "austerity phase" as it grapples with a fiscal crisis that could worsen into a full-blown economic crisis if it did not cut expenses and raise revenues. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Shell rules out price rollback

OIL REFINER Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. has ruled out a rollback in oil prices at this time, citing the difficult market environment in 2004 which resulted in some P2 billion in foregone revenues for the company.

Instead of a rollback, Shell will raise the discounts it is giving to public transport such as jeepneys and buses by another 25 centavos per liter effective last Saturday and another 25 centavos on Christmas day.

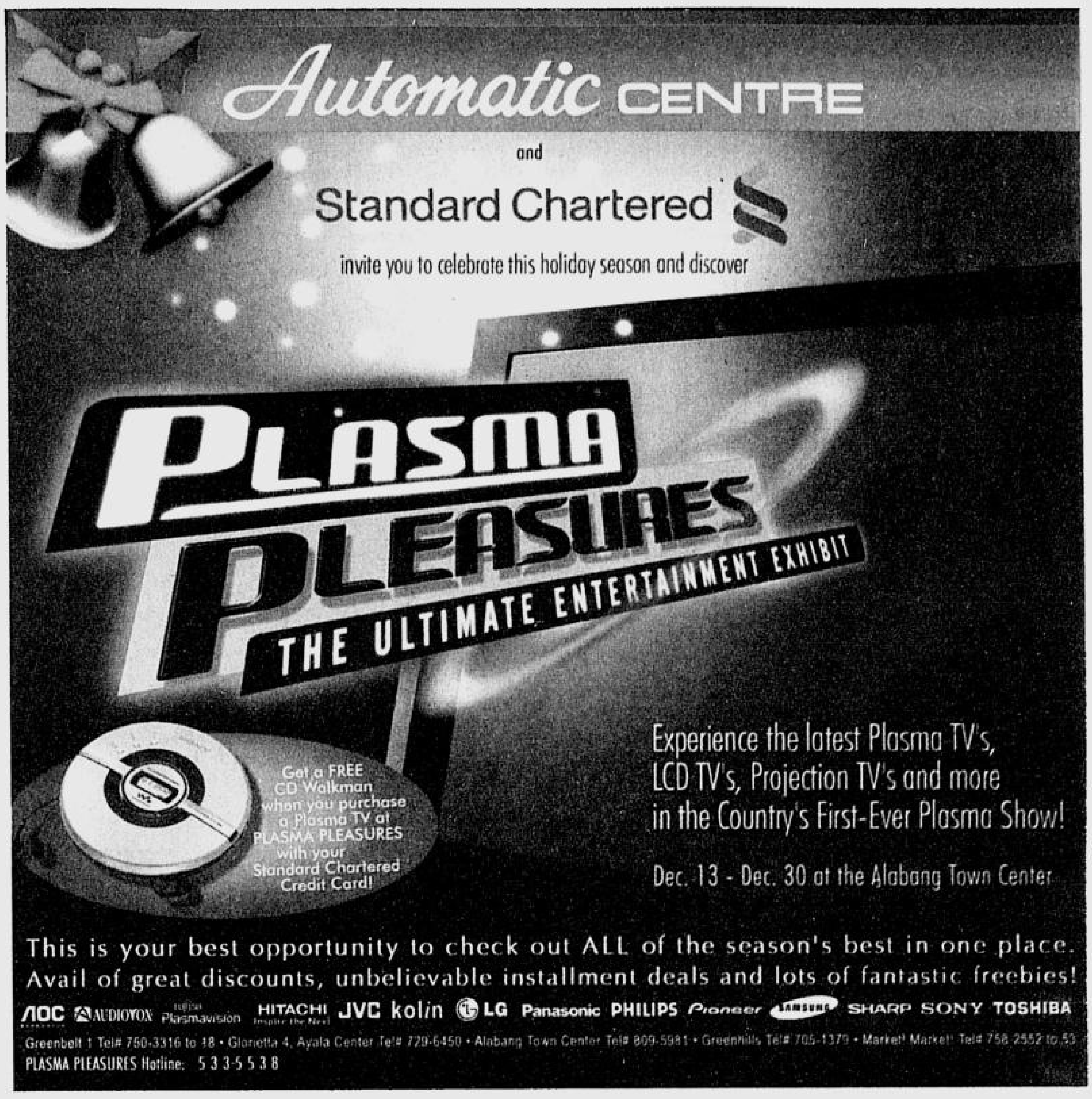
Petron Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. are likewise increasing their diesel discounts.

On Dec. 20, Petron and Caltex will raise the discounts to 75 centavos from the current 50 centavos a liter. By Dec. 27, the discount will be increased to P1 a liter.

Shell general manager for external affairs Roberto Kanapi said Consumer and Oil Price Watch's claim that a rollback was in order at this time was unfounded.

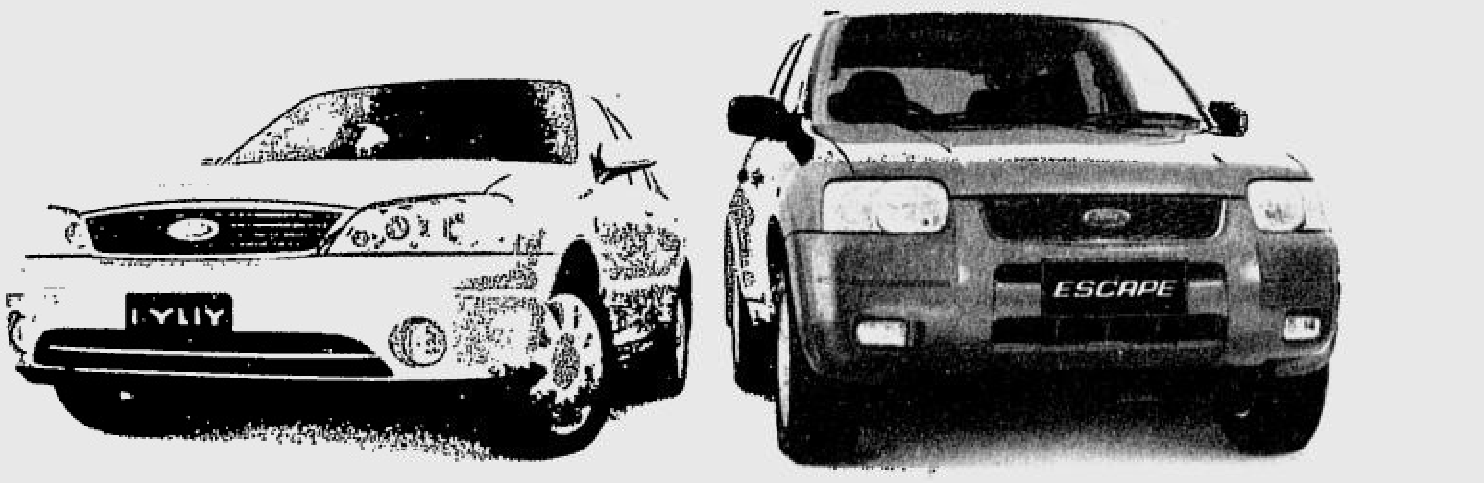
Kanapi said COPW chair Raul Concepcion's figures were the result of "pure guesswork" and were based on "unsubstantiated assumptions and dubious information."

He said that Shell's estimates were supported by "accurate, appropriate and legally derived data," as opposed to Concepcion's "back of the envelope calculations." *Abigail L. Ho*


Automatic CENTRE
and
Standard Chartered
invite you to celebrate this holiday season and discover
PLASMA PLEASURES
THE ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT EXHIBIT
Get a FREE CD Walkman when you purchase a Plasma TV at PLASMA PLEASURES with your Standard Chartered Credit Card!
Experience the latest Plasma TV's, LCD TV's, Projection TV's and more in the Country's First-Ever Plasma Show!
Dec. 13 - Dec. 30 at the Alabang Town Center
This is your best opportunity to check out ALL of the season's best in one place. Avail of great discounts, unbelievable installment deals and lots of fantastic freebies!
AOC AUDIOVOX Fujitsu Plasmavision HITACHI Inspire the Next JVC kolin LG Panasonic PHILIPS Pioneer SAMSUNG SHARP SONY TOSHIBA
Greenbelt 1 Tel# 750-3316 to 18 • Glorietta 4, Ayala Center Tel# 729-6450 • Alabang Town Center Tel# 809-5981 • Greenhills Tel# 705-1379 • Market! Market! Tel# 758-2552 to 53
PLASMA PLEASURES Hotline: 533-5538

Ford
No Boundaries

The true spirit of giving is when you expect nothing in return.



Thank you for choosing the Lynx. Thank you for choosing the Escape. Allow us to show our appreciation by giving you the chance to get your payment back. If you buy any of these vehicles before December 30, you'll be given raffle tickets that could win you back your vehicle's full purchase price! There will be one winner each from among the Escape buyers and the Lynx buyers. The more generous you are with your choice of vehicle, the more tickets you receive, the more chances of getting back the blessings!

Coupon Table

Lynx GSi	3 coupons	Escape 2.3L	10 coupons
Lynx Ghia	5 coupons	Escape 3.0L	15 coupons
Lynx RS	8 coupons		

Plus 0% Interest* plans on all Escape and Lynx models.

*Applies to 50% DP 12-month scheme. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5958, Series of 2004

www.ford.com.ph

ERA 24-HOUR EMERGENCY ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

• Ford Alabang, Trunk lines. 842-3681 / 842-4628, Fax No. 807-4430 • Ford Balintawak, Trunk Line. 927-9648, Fax No. 927-5981 • Ford Commonwealth, Tel. Nos.: 952-9118, 952-9441, 952-9446 Fax No., 952-9440 • Ford EDSA, Tel. No.: 744-2222; Fax No. 723-6311 • Ford EDSA Service Center Tel. No.: 723-7029
• Ford Libis, Trunk Line: 637-2044, Fax No.: 637-6008 • Ford Makati, Trunk Line 818-5555, Fax No.: 815-0513 • Ford Manila, Tel. No.: 562-5555 Fax No.: 562-8985 • Ford Quezon Avenue, Tel. Nos.: 731-2617 / 742-3435 / 742-3436 Fax: 742-3451 • Ford Shaw Blvd., Trunk Line. 717-0888, Telefax: 717-1390
• Ford Pampanga, Trunk Line: (045) 961-2888, Fax Nos.: (045) 963-5206 / 961-2277 • Ford Cabanatuan, Tel. No.: (044) 464-0111, Fax No. (044) 600-4200 • Ford Dagupan, Tel. No. (075) 522-2222, Telefax: (075) 515-5520 • Ford San Pablo, Tel. No.: (049) 562-9186, Telefax: (049) 562-8324 • Ford Cavite, Tel. No. (046) 472-2040; Fax: (046) 472-2018
• Ford Cebu, Trunk Line: (032) 231-9180; Fax No.: (032) 231-9023 • Ford Bacolod, Tel No. (034) 432-2151, Telefax: (034) 434-2877 • Ford Iloilo, Tel. No.: (033) 321-3352, Telefax No.: (033) 321-3351 • Ford Cagayan de Oro, Tel. Nos. (088) 855-8811, Telefax: (088) 855-8877 • Ford Davao, Tel. No.: (082) 234-1111; Fax No. (082) 234-2222

Japan open to talks on new policy

By TJ Burgonio

JAPAN is still open to a dialogue with the Philippine government regarding its new immigration policy on Filipino performing artists, which has caused a furor among talents and their managers in Manila, officials said yesterday.

The new immigration policy, which junks a Philippine government's certification of an artist's qualifications in favor of a two-year training or experience in a specific field of entertainment, is set to be enforced beginning Jan. 4, 2005.

The Philippines has proposed a five-year moratorium on the implementation of the new policy which is seen to drastically cut the number of Filipino entertainers going to Japan from 80,000 to 8,000 every year. The proposal was submitted to the Japanese government by Philippine Ambassador to Japan Domingo Siazon.

"They haven't made a decision yet [on our proposal]. They're still open to a dialogue. That's the message I'm getting from Siazon," Foreign Undersecretary Jose Brillantes said in an interview.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said Friday that he was sending Brillantes to Japan to hammer out a possible moratorium or the adoption of a transition period before the new regulation is implemented.

Resignation sought

Romulo's announcement came hours after hundreds of entertainers and their managers picketed the Department of Foreign Affairs, demanding a moratorium as well as the resignation of Romulo and Brillantes for allegedly failing to act swiftly on the issue.

Earlier, they staged similar protest rallies at the Japanese Embassy and the labor department.

The entertainers and their managers have threatened to continue their protest rallies in the coming weeks unless the Japanese government reacts positively to their demands.

"If possible, the protest rallies will continue until the Japanese government responds to the proposal," said Bernie Salinel, spokesperson of the 300-strong Philippine Overseas Entertainment Industry Foundation.

"There should be a five-year moratorium. For the meantime, the talents carrying ARBs (artist record books) should be allowed to work until they get the necessary training or experience required by the new policy," he said.

For years, Filipinos had been allowed to work as entertainers in bars and nightclubs in Japan just by presenting the ARB, a government document certifying that the holder had undergone the necessary training and testing for their dancing and singing skills.

Under the new policy, the ARB will no longer be recognized. Instead, the talents will be required to present proof of a two-year training in music or dance, or two years of experience as a singer or dancer outside Japan.

Human trafficking

The Japanese government adopted the policy on Dec. 7 after it was criticized by the US State Department for its failure to check the human trafficking in foreigners, including Filipino women who end up as commercial sex workers.

A Department of Labor and Employment official yesterday told the Japanese government that cooperation, not unilateral action, is the better option to combat human trafficking.

Undersecretary Manuel Imson, acting DOLE chief, said Tokyo's new immigration policy "reduces the areas of cooperation [and] puts solely on the shoulders of the host country the burden of stopping the victimization of entertainers."

With a report from Jerome Aning

Missing Pinoy seaman given up for dead

By TJ Burgonio

THE SIX missing crewmen, including a Filipino, of a Malaysian cargo vessel that sank in icy Alaskan waters amid stormy weather on Dec. 8 have been "presumed dead" by the US Coast Guard, foreign affairs officials said.

The crewmen, including Filipino Carlos Santiago, went missing after the helicopter that plucked them from the sinking M/V Selendang Ayu crashed in the freezing waters. Eleven other Filipinos were rescued and brought to safety.

A search team from the US Coast Guard had been scouring the waters for any sign of the missing crew but so far had come up empty-handed, the officials said.

Capt. Morrison Moris, overall coordinator of the US Coast Guard search and rescue team, confirmed the team had not found "any of the bodies," Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said.

Survivors arrive in RP

"Under the circumstances, Captain Morris said the US Coast Guard considers them missing but presumed dead since there is very little chance for them to survive in the freezing waters," Asuque said in a statement.

The 11 Filipino survivors who were flown to San Francisco from Alaska after the mishap arrived in Manila on Friday to be "reunited with their families" during the holiday season, the officials said.

Evanie Maravilla, Wilfredo Alvarez, JR Briones, Jimmy Villariasa, Allan Tanalgo, Vicente Vieja, Leo Alimbo, Francis Alian, Richard Bacal, Russel Luis and Juan Franco took separate flights to Manila, they said.

The 12 Filipino seamen were part of the 26-man crew of the ship. The other missing crewmen were Indians.

The 712-foot cargo vessel, registered in Malaysia and owned by IMC Pan Asian Alliance (Pte) Ltd of Singapore, ran aground off the Aleutian islands apparently due to the stormy weather. At the time, it was carrying a cargo of grains.

Ship split in two

Shortly after, rescue teams from the US Coast Guard arrived to pick up the distressed crewmen. The ship later split in two and sank in the Alaskan seas.

The ship's owner has assured Philippine officials that Santiago and the 11 Filipino survivors would receive all benefits due them.

DADDY IS A PEACEKEEPER

Daddy's little girl refuses to let him go, but go he must to Haiti as part of the 115-strong Philippine peacekeeping contingent to that strife-wracked country under the aegis of the United Nations. The Filipino troops left from Villamor Air Base yesterday and will be away for six months. REUTERS

No place for tobacco ads, backers at Games

By Blanche S. Rivera

ATHLETES sponsored by tobacco companies or who endorse tobacco products would be disqualified from the Southeast Asian Games to be held in the Philippines next year.

Dr. Encarnita Limpin, president of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Alliance-Philippines (FCAP), said all 14 participating countries had agreed to ban tobacco sponsorships and endorsements as part of their commitment to tobacco-free SEA games.

FCAP, along with members of the task force on SEA Games, presented the antitobacco guidelines to representatives of the Federation Council of SEA Games in Makati in October.

Participants who violate the tobacco-free SEA Games policy, including wearing shirts endorsing tobacco companies, would be disqualified from their sport or event, Limpin said.

"Those who are caught on tobacco (endorsements or sponsorships) will be automatically disqualified," she added.

Some 8,000 athletes, 4,000 technical officials and 3,000 delegation members are expected to participate in the games.

Limpin said representatives of sports associations of all the countries welcomed the tobacco-free games next year and did not pose objections to any of the guidelines during the meeting in October.

"Everybody knows that when you're into sports, you have to lead a healthy life. They believe in the principles we presented and we're happy about that," Limpin said.

"But, they're worried about the implementation of rules and regulations," she said.

Limpin said organizers of the games would designate smoking areas in the sports venues, making sure smokers will not interfere with or disturb athletes in the ongoing games.

In a nine-page proposal submitted to the Department of Health in June, the Philippine Sports Commission said it would push for "zero sponsorship and marketing of the SEA Games with the tobacco industry in any possible form."

This is the second time that a host country is working to keep the event tobacco-free. The first was in Vietnam during last year's games.

Gov't mulls appeal of SC order on Journal group

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government is considering appealing the Supreme Court's order to the government to return Philippine Journalists Inc. to its former owners.

The Supreme Court en banc had ordered the return in a resolution dated Dec. 14 but said the owners, led by former majority stockholder Rosario Olivares, must first settle PJI's P33,364,889.19 debt to the state's Asset Privatization Trust.

PJI, which publishes People's Journal, People's Tonight, People's Journal International, Women's Journal, Insider and Taliba, was sequestered by the government in 1986.

The government alleged that it was part of the ill-gotten wealth of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos' brother-in-law Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez.

"We're studying the Supreme Court's decision. If we find that it contravenes the opinion rendered by the Commission on Audit, we might file an appeal," said PCGG lawyer Cesario del Rosario in an interview.

Del Rosario said the law provides that public debts amounting to P50 million and above could only be condoned by Congress.

The PCGG is looking to see if the SC's decision was in effect a condonation of a debt which requires Congress' approval.

"We're still studying the Supreme Court's decision," Del Rosario reiterated.

The COA told the high court that PJI's loan stood at P60,428,390.42.

But the SC upheld the PJI owners' argument that the balance of its industrial loan was only P74,984.73.

The SC nevertheless said the COA was correct in computing PJI's other loan obligations at P33,289,994.46.

As soon as the owners had fully paid their loan, the high court said, the deed of chattel mortgage issued by PJI in favor of the Development Bank of the Philippines as security for its loans, along with the supplement to the deed of assignment, should be automatically canceled.

The PCGG had lifted its sequestration of PJI years ago.

But PJI remains under the "custody" of the APT, which assumed control of the corporation's majority shares in 1986.

PJI is part of the alleged ill-gotten assets of Romualdez cited in the forfeiture case, Civil Case 0035. The case is pending before the Sandiganbayan.

Since APT is under the Office of the President, Malacañang names the directors and other top officials of PJI.

In ordering PJI's return to its private owners, the Supreme Court said the cash-strapped publishing group had only been a financial burden to the government.

PJI sustained huge losses from 1997 to 2001.

"As a result, the company has been operating with capital deficiency and by all indications is becoming another burden to the government," the SC said.

PJI obtained various dollar-denominated loans and credit accommodations from the DBP between Sept. 15, 1976, and March 31, 1981, to purchase equipment and machinery.

WOW! MAGIC SING PREMIUM Videoke Anytime, Anywhere!

All I Want for CHRISTMAS

☑ The No.1 Videoke Microphone with
- 55 WOWPHILIPPINES picture backgrounds
- 793 Built-in Licensed songs plus BIYAHE Tayo! bonus song
- WOW! Magic Sing Premium Neckphone
- Mic Stand
- User friendly songlist & manual
- Leatherette bag
- 5 meter cable
- Autovolt Electronic Adaptor
- 1 year warranty
- Lifetime Service

☑ Duet Microphone with
- BIYAHE Tayo! VCD
- Receiver

☑ Tagalog 3,4 & 5 Song Chips with
- BIYAHE Tayo! VCD
- Licensed Songs
- User-friendly Songlist

BIYAHE Tayo! THE BONAMINE TRAVEL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

Biyahe Tayo! is a project of Bonamine/Pfizer/DOT/PCVC and is fully supported by WOW! Magic Sing Premium

Sing through the Philippines! WOW! MAGIC SING PREMIUM Tara na, Videoke Tayo! WOW! Magic Sing Premium Tourism Advocacy Program

AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE AT:

odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO • Automatic CENTRE • AstroVision • ABENSON • WESTERN • MUSIC VIDEO • Home & Office Center • ASTROPLUS • Avid BEST BRANDS! • TIONGSAN HARRISON • SOLID ELECTRONICS • PACIFIC ELECTRONICS • SANSONIC MARKETING • OHM'S TRADER • Hirosé ELECTRONICS • W & M Marketing • SANTECH • ASSURANCE Merchandising • SIGHTS & SOUNDS Audio / Video • GOLDEN SOUND • The Listening Room • SPECTRA AUDIO VIDEO CENTER • Nintendo • People's MARKETING • Willy and Sons Corporation • ABEN Marketing • BHF • SOLAR SALES CENTER • CSI CITY SUPERMARKET INCORPORATED • Consumers Appliance Traders, Inc. • EVER APPLIANCE CENTER, INC. • ECHO • ASIAN HOME APPLIANCE CENTER • REVERB • ECO-TECH • Cebu Appliance Center • APPLIANCE CENTRUM • Lopue's • RCS MARKETING • MARKETING INC. • QUALITY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC • SPECIAL APPLIANCE PLAZA INC • RAINBOW APPLIANCE PLAZA INC. • CENTRAL QUALITY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC • BCS • GOLDEN BELL • BETTER LIVING

Metro Manila Dealers: *Armstrong* Gonzalo Puyat Raon, Manila • *Knight Audio Room* Raon Shopping Center, Manila • *Fair N' Square* Escolta St Binondo, Manila, Nueva St Binondo, Manila • *Ample* • *Viewplus Appliance* • *Richland Electronics* • *Filgifts* Filipino Merchant Bldg Legaspi Village, Makati City • *Earl Toy World* • *Shop Manila* • *VMZ Business Center* • *Belden Mkting.* • *Jems Appliances* • *Buy Smart* • *Prosound* • *Listening Style* • *Victronics Computers, Inc.* • *Sound Quest Electronic Center* • *Bethel Marketing* • *Belcap* • *Yamaha School of Music* • *Wilsonic Marketing* • *A Plus A* • *Welcome Home Appliance Corp.*

Provincial Dealers: Luzon *TSB Bazaar* Baguio City • *Audio Mix* Calansayan, San Jose Batangas • *Guanzon Merchandising Corp.* • *Joy's Radio Center & Record Bar* • *Ocampos Angeles* • *Ocampos Mega Store* Metro Mall, Poblacion, Balanga Bataan, Arthur St WBB Olongapo City, Dinalupihan Public Market, Dinalupihan, Bataan

Visayas & Mindanao: *Thesson's Marketing* Dacuno Bldg cor Lerma & Panganiban Drive, Naga City • *GC Appliance Corp* • *Siritz Consumer Electronics* Cebu City • *R.A. Uy Appliance* • *Fiesta Appliance Center* • *J&R* Nueva St., Cebu City

Exclusively Distributed by: in-a-jiffy & G2K Corporation

Made in Korea by: ET ENTERTECH

Sin goes home

RETIRED Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin finally got his wish yesterday when he was released from the Cardinal Santos Medical Center in San Juan at around 11 a.m.

The cardinal, who was hospitalized for a low-grade fever, was initially confined in the intensive care unit but was transferred to a regular room after three days.

"He spent a week in confinement and every day of that week he wanted to go home. The doctors finally cleared him. He's okay, he has no more fever," said Archdiocese of Manila information officer Peachy Yamsuan over the phone yesterday.

Sin, who is wheelchair-bound, has a kidney ailment and undergoes dialysis thrice a week at his Villa San Miguel home in Mandaluyong City where he has 24-hour nursing care.

Last October, he was rushed to the Cardinal Santos Medical Center for congestive heart failure. He spent 26 days in the hospital after the doctors noticed a sudden drop in his blood pressure while undergoing dialysis at his residence.

He also suffered a stroke in March last year and was confined at the same hospital

Sin rose to worldwide fame after instigating two bloodless people power revolts that toppled two Philippine presidents in 1986 and 2001.

He retired as Manila's longest-serving archbishop—29 years—when he turned 75 in August last year. He was replaced by former Lipa Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales. *Blanche S. Rivera*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, December 20, 2004
4th Week of Advent

1st Reading: Is 7:10-14
Gospel: Lk 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent to a young virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice full of grace, the Lord is with you." Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean.

But the angel said, "Do not fear, Mary, for God has looked kindly on you. You shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever and his reign shall have no end.

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be if I am a virgin?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the holy child to be born shall be called Son of God. Even your relative Elizabeth is expecting a son in her old age, although she was unable to have a child, and she is now in her sixth month. With God nothing is impossible."

Then Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

Commentary

Meister Eckhart had a great gift of removing names and labels from familiar things and allowing them to be mysterious again. Let's hear something from him on this familiar reading.

"If anyone were to ask me, Why do we pray, why do we fast, why do we do all our works, why are we baptized, why (most important of all) did God become incarnate?—I would answer, in order that God may be born in the soul and the soul be born in God. For that reason all the scriptures were written, for that reason God created the world and all angelic natures: so that God may be born in the soul and the soul be born in God…

'The angel was called Gabriel'… He was no more called Gabriel than Conrad… 'Carpenter' is not a man's name, but his name is taken from the work of which he is a master. The angel took the name 'Gabriel' from the work of which he was a messenger, for 'Gabriel' means 'power of God'… No one can know an angel's name. No master and no understanding ever got to where an angel received his name: perhaps he is nameless…

The soul, too, has no name. Just as no one can find a true name for God, so none can find the soul's true name, although mighty tomes have been written about this. But she is given a name according as she has a regard to her activity.

In this birth God works powerfully or exerts power… In God there is plenitude of power, therefore in his birth he produces his like. All that God is in power, truth and wisdom, he bears altogether in the soul."

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

True idea

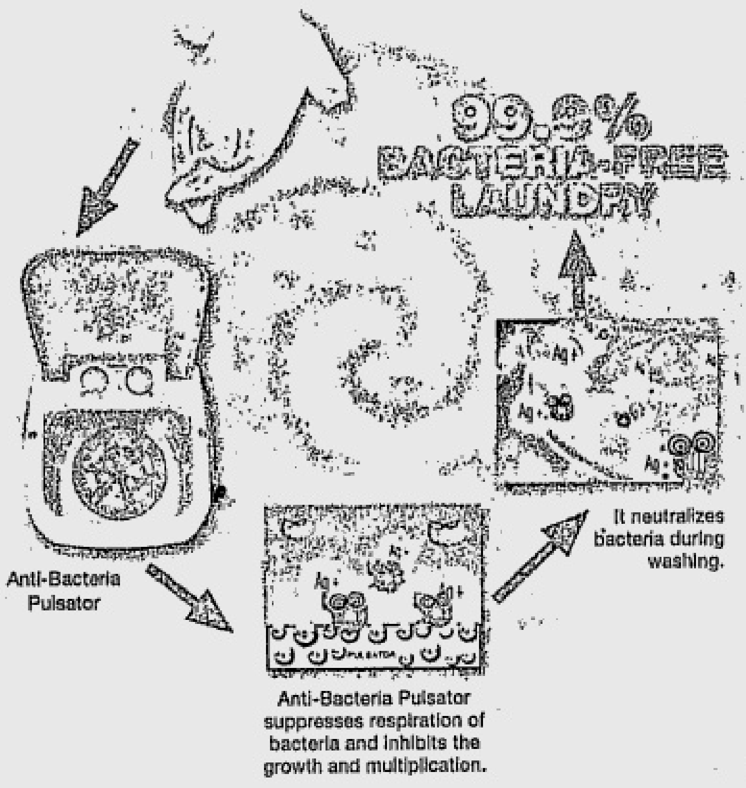
It's an assurance of only the very best.

Single Tub
Twin Tub

99.9% Bacteria-free Laundry.
100% Love & Care.

Get only the
cleanest clean laundry with
Panasonic
Anti-Bacteria Washing Machine.

Its powerful washing cycle starts with its Soakmatic Function that loosens out dirt on your clothes. Then its Super Flow wash action thoroughly washes and keeps clothes clean. All the germs from the clothes are killed on contact with the Anti-Bacteria Pulsator. So your family can enjoy 99.9% bacteria-free clothes.


99.9%
BACTERIA-FREE
LAUNDRY
Anti-Bacteria Pulsator
It neutralizes bacteria during washing.
Anti-Bacteria Pulsator suppresses respiration of bacteria and inhibits the growth and multiplication.

Superior cleaning made simple with BREEZE and PANASONIC
Panasonic recommends BREEZE

www.panasonic.com.ph

Visit your nearest Panasonic dealers to inquire on the complete line of models.

Panasonic
ideas for life

Buy any model of Panasonic Washing Machine and get
One FREE Twin Laundry Hamper with One Laundry Kit
Promo period: Nov. 15 - Dec. 31, 2004. Per DTI-NCR permit number 5288 series of 2004,

More time to serve you at Panasonic Service Center – Shaw Boulevard!
EXTENDED SERVICE HOURS!
8AM TO 8PM
(Mondays – Saturdays)

Simply the best

This Christmas, your loved ones
deserve something special . . .

MARCA PIÑA
QUESO DE BOLA

MARCA PIÑA
2004 Top Cheese Brand
NATIONAL CONSUMERS
QUALITY AWARDS
made by FRICO CHEESE
exclusively distributed by:
WILMINGTON IMEX INC.
tels. 721-8708 • 721-9763

'Politics-free FPJ funeral'

From page A1

He added: "Let's wait until the funeral is over."

One million marchers?

The Philippine National Police has prepared at least 1,000 officers to keep the peace from the time that Poe's body is moved out of Sto. Domingo until he is buried in the family plot at the North Cemetery.

"It will be our biggest preparation for a burial since that of Ninoy Aquino," said Senior Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., Task Force FPJ chief, referring to the funeral march for the assassinated opposition senator which was attended by at least one million people.

"We're preparing for one million people, we can handle them," Radovan said.

Poe's dear friend, deposed President Joseph Estrada, may speak during the necrological rites for his buddy on Dec. 21 at Sto. Domingo Church.

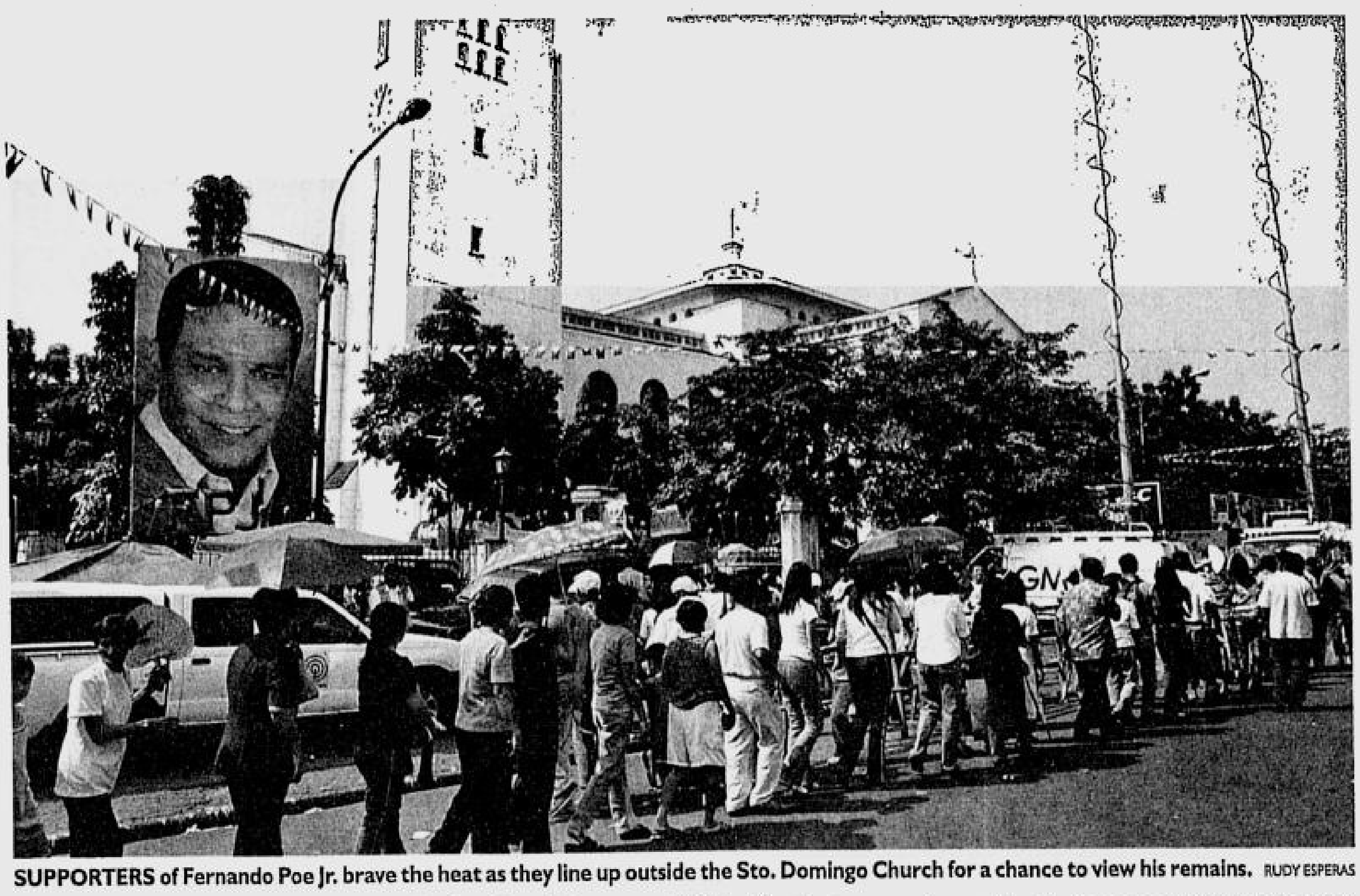
"He will most likely be asked to speak," former Sen. Vicente Sotto III said yesterday. "People expect [Estrada] to say something about FPJ."

Estrada, on trial for plunder, has received a 24-hour pass from the Sandiganbayan which would allow him to be at FPJ's wake from 9 a.m. on Tuesday to 9 a.m. Wednesday, the day of the burial, a senior police source said.

Wedding and funeral?

Sotto said the family was finalizing burial details, especially since there was a wedding set for 9 a.m. at Sto. Domingo Church on the day of the funeral. This means Poe's remains would have to be moved out before the wedding, he said.

But he said Poe's friends had



SUPPORTERS of Fernando Poe Jr. brave the heat as they line up outside the Sto. Domingo Church for a chance to view his remains. RUDY ESPERAS

requested that the scheduled wedding be delayed a few hours so that the final Mass at the church could be held at 9 a.m.

At press time, Sotto did not know if the request had been granted.

In any case, Sotto said he had suggested that the final Mass at the church be held at 3 a.m. of Dec. 22, the same time the traditional Misa de Gallo is held.

Pulled by horses

He said this would allow Poe's family, friends and supporters to leave the church at 4:30 a.m. and start the funeral march thereafter.

So far, Sotto said he had learned that Susan Roces had agreed to his suggestion for the funeral march to make a stop at the sprawling FPJ Studios, which Poe acquired in the '70s.

Family friend Marichu Maceda earlier said the burial would take place before noon, in line with a family tradition.

Poe's coffin will be mounted on a carriage pulled by horses, Sotto said.

By the family's and their friends' estimate, around one million mourners may have already filed past Poe's remains as of Saturday, according to actor Rez Cortez. It was not clear how they arrived at the figure.

Palace defers honors

Rebuffed earlier by the Poe family, Malacañang has decided to defer all plans to honor President Macapagal-Arroyo's rival in the last election until after his funeral.

"All these, any discussions or moves in that direction, are held in abeyance until after the burial," Communications Director Silvestre Afable said.

Malacañang and other officials earlier considered honoring Poe by conferring on him the Presidential Order of Merit and the National Artist Award, burying him at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, or lowering the flag at half-staff.

The family scoffed at the offers and questioned the motives of Malacañang after Poe was allegedly cheated out of the presidency.

Militant groups that Malacañang once branded as legal fronts for the Communist Party of the Philippines appeared to have fared better. They were allowed by the Poe family to hold a Mass for "Da King" at the Sto. Domingo Church.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan spokesperson Renato Reyes Jr. said Bayan and the other progressive groups had coordinated with the family through the actor's longtime assistant and spokesperson Susan Tagle.

Tagle released the following schedule of services during the wake:

- Dec 19: 8 p.m.—Mass sponsored by People's Congress for Authentic Democracy.
- Dec 20: 8 p.m.—Mass
- 10 p.m.—Short prayer service, Jesus Is Lord Movement, to be officiated by Bro. Eddie Villanueva
- 11 p.m.—Tribute of volunteer groups of FPJ during the election campaign
- Dec 21: 8 p.m.—Mass sponsored by the film industry
- Midnight—Public viewing ends. Occasion is reserved for family and friends.

Security measures

As of yesterday, the PNP was mapping out plans without specific requests coming from the Poe family.

Conrad Poe said the family still had to iron out arrangements for things like portable toilets and medical units.

"We want everything to be organized," he said. "We should understand that we never expected FPJ to pass away so we were all caught by surprise." *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra, Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora*

Wreaths fit for 'Da King'

By Luige A. del Puerto

EVEN the flowers would humble Da King.

As of yesterday, the family of the late Fernando Poe Jr. had received more than 150 funeral wreaths, including some from the most illustrious families and individuals in the country.

On the average, each wreath cost around P4,000, while others fetched as much as P8,000, if not more, an expert in the flower industry said.

If all the flowers were cashed in, they would amount to a total of at least P600,000—enough to buy 600 cavans of rice or build 12 houses (at P50,000 each) under a project of Gawad Kalinga, a Catholic organization.

Most of the wreaths arrived during the first two days of Poe's wake at the Sto. Domingo Church.

Two of the wreaths never got near Poe's coffin. Sent by President Macapagal-Arroyo and House Speaker Jose de Venecia, they were torn to shreds and torched by diehard Poe supporters.

"Some of these flowers are very expensive," said Jing Mirasol, operations manager of Holland Blooms.

Each stem of a South American or Ecuadorian rose, for one, costs anywhere between P300 to P500—and a wreath from a media tycoon had at least 10 of them.

The flowers were mostly orchids, liliums, anthuriums, Malaysian mums and roses.

Some of the wreaths are considerably tall, a few others as high as 10 feet. Others are as wide as an arm's span.

The wreath from Poe's buddy, deposed President Joseph Estrada, stood at least 15 feet. Made mostly of orchids, it towered beside the gate to the church where the mourners enter.

The wreaths form two columns and guide mourners as they exit St. Martin's Chapel.

An amazed mourner, upon seeing the flowers, could not help but remark how numerous and beautiful they were.

"They are truly fit for a king!" she said.

Massive turnout at wake a warning to elite

From page A1

for a live champion and found sustenance in the fiction of film rather in political reality.

Blend of fact and fiction

The search of the masses, toiling for generations in poverty and unequal opportunities, had found expression in charismatic mass-oriented leaders, such as those that occasionally emerged as champions of the masses—including the immensely popular President Ramon Magsaysay, Joseph Estrada, and now Poe.

In these persons, the "revolt of the masses" against the Filipino political elite, from whose ranks has been recruited the political leadership since the Philippine Revolution of 1896, found a vehicle.

Film was a convenient medium because it provided the fulfillment of their frustrated aspirations through the merger of reality with fantasy.

Message to the elite

The multitudes who throng the wake for Poe represent the powerful undertow driven by these unfulfilled aspirations for justice, for an honest government, and for a life lifted from the blight of poverty.

These aspirations found expression in the electoral vote for Poe, who lost the presidential election by more than one million votes.

The mass of people demonstrating their grief for him and the vote he received in May are sending a powerful message to the elite leadership that can't be ignored.

The passing of Poe does not end the masses' quest for a political leadership that can fulfill their aspirations. The masses will continue to find vehicles that can promote these aspirations. Fortunately for us, these aspirations have not been captured by the military coup plotters.

Military demagogues

The military has been identified by the masses with the elite political establishment, no less corrupt and abusive than the civilian political class.

Thus, in the search for champions, the masses have sought refuge in films and actors, who spoke their aspirations and language.

It would have far more dangerous consequences if these aspirations would be seized by military demagogues who could speak populist rhetoric.

It is so much idle talk to compare the crowds that mourned the death of Benigno Aquino Jr. and those that mourn Poe. Crowd comparisons of these two events are inappropriate. Aquino was murdered by the Marcos political establishment. Poe died of a natural cause—without human intervention.

Difference between 2 deaths

The mourning for Aquino and the massive outpouring for him represent the explosion of anger that had built up over a period of 10 years over the abuses of the Marcos dictatorship.

This pent-up rage was the reason the Aquino assassination marked the beginning of the collapse of the Marcos dictatorship.

In the case of Poe, his defeat in the election had nothing to do with his stroke. To try to blame it on the flawed election is overstating the case of looking for someone to blame for his death.

The stroke came while the Presidential Electoral Tribunal was in the process of hearing Poe's electoral protest.

While it's true that the election results came under a cloud of allegations of cheating, there is absolutely no justification for anyone to use Poe's death to stoke the resentment over the disputed election results to stir up popular unrest.

No room for agitators

In due time, the tribunal will hand down a decision. But in the meantime, there should be no interference by agitators feeding on the emotional sympathy for Poe, to frustrate the completion of the process.

The controversy over in what way Poe will be honored and recognized is entirely uncalled for.

Some outlandish proposals have been suggested—including burying him with a state funeral and flying the flag at half-staff.

There are rules for these honors. Poe did very well in his vocation in the film industry. He has been recognized with several awards associated with film.

In political terms, Poe was a catalyst. His presidential bid put to the people the issue of choosing between programs and sheer charisma.

It also showed up the flaws of the electoral system. His defeat posed a challenge to the opposition that next time around, it should do more than pin its hopes of winning power on charismatic personalities.

The outpouring of grief for Poe warns the political establishment that there is a massive, latent constituency of disadvantaged Filipinos who can easily be recruited for mobilization for political movements more dangerous than watching and identifying with films of political Robin Hoods.

Balloons, butterflies to grace KC burial

From page A1

plained why KC and FPJ had the same burial date.

"The family decided to bury KC on Dec. 22 because that day is a Glorious Wednesday," she said referring to the Holy Rosary's Glorious Mystery.

Gina's youngest sister, Chona Ampil, said few people bury their dead on Monday and they decided against burying KC on a "Sorrowful Tuesday."

500 butterflies

"It's purely a coincidence," she added.

Ampil said the Requiem Mass would be on Dec. 22 at 9 a.m. at the Santuario de San Antonio.

"We are requesting everyone to be there by 8:30 a.m.," she stressed. "We also want the sympathizers to exercise solemnity during the service."

Lea Salonga will sing during the Mass. This will be followed by eulogies from six of KC's closest friends and a final send-off in the parish garden.

"A thousand white balloons and 500 colorful butterflies will be released," Ampil said, adding that KC's favorite song will be played during the special rites.

Rich and famous

Politicians, Cabinet officials, businessmen, friends, classmates, relatives, bodyguards and aides comprised the close to 500 people who came to condole with the Speaker and his family over the weekend.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who considered the death of KC a personal loss, attended Mass on Friday, the first day of the wake after the fire.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, Palace chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao, PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay were seen at the wake.

San Miguel chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., his wife Gretchen and son Rep. Carlos "Charlie" Cojuangco were also spotted.

PLDT chair Manny Pangilinan was there with aides and bodyguards. So were Lea Salonga, Charlene Gonzalez and Amalia Fuentes.

Seen condoling with the De Venecia couple were former Rep. Didagen "Digs" Dilangalen and Gov. Raul Daza.

"This is beyond politics, we feel for the Speaker's grief," said Dilangalen, who is also spokesperson for deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Fun room

Also present was Rep. Carlos Padilla who said that he came to condole with De Venecia, but had not yet visited the wake of his friend Fernando Poe Jr.

He wanted to pay his last respects to FPJ, but the wake, Padilla said, had become too political.

"I'm not even sure if I'm welcome there," he said.

Of course, the family didn't forget KC's classmates and friends, who gathered in a "fun room" set up by KC's cousins.

The room, next to the area where the urn was, had KC's things and memorabilia from friends and relatives, including her favorite food.

They also showed a video of the young, pretty and smart KC who had dreamed of one day going to Harvard.

PNP says …

From page A1

cause over the past 10 months, fewer people have been killed, kidnapped or raped. The number of stolen vehicles has also gone down.

All this translated to a 9.83-percent drop in crime volume from January to October compared to the same period in 2003, the PNP reported yesterday.

From a total of 71,162 incidents last year, crime volume decreased by 6,997 to 64,165.

Of the total for the 10-month period, 35,286 were "index" crimes or incidents like rape and murder that "occur with enough frequency and regularity that they serve as an index to the crime situation," according to the PNP report.

The rest were "nonindex" crimes—those that refer to smuggling, illegal gambling, child abuse and prostitution.

The PNP said index crimes decreased by 1.2 percent while nonindex crimes fell 18.53 percent.

Theft up

Among index crimes, murder cases dropped 3 percent, homicide 11.58 percent, physical injury 2.72 percent, and robbery 0.68 percent. Only theft shot up, by 7.36 percent from 8,275 cases in 2003 to 8,884 in January-October this year.

Street crimes, including drug pushing and robbery, dropped to 12,623 cases from 14,667 in the same period in 2003. Of this year's cases, 11,293 were solved, reflecting an 89.46-percent crime solution efficiency.

Kidnap-for-ransom, a problem particular to the Chinese-Filipino community, seemed to have been contained this year.

Compared to last year's 77 incidents, there were only 28 reported cases this year, translating to a 64-percent decrease. Of the 28 cases, 18 were solved and 70 kidnappers were either killed or arrested.

Car theft down

The PNP also made significant gains in the drive against car thieves, a problem that has made Quezon City the country's "car theft capital." This year, there was an average of 4.3 vehicles stolen daily. The incidence of car theft dropped 33 percent from 2,159 vehicles to 1,440.

As for drug trafficking, the PNP said it had arrested 19,318 peddlers and users in 15,291 operations during the 10-month period besides dismantling 10 shabu laboratories.

The campaign against bank robbers, however, had poor results. Of the 46 cases recorded nationwide, only eight were solved.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

President Arroyo is welcomed by TAP Labor Management Council chair Gary Aguilar in the event highlighting the ability of the Filipino to absorb the latest technology and investments for greater productivity and higher quality.

YEAREND REPORT

TOYOTA EXPORTS... LEADING THE WAY

Labor and Management cooperation achieves world-class quality

Philippine-made transmission assemblies now a major component of the Toyota Global Supply Network

"We pledge to continuously improve quality, efficiency and always provide on-time delivery of our products."

This was the promise made by Gary Aguilar, Chairman of the Labor Management Council of Toyota Autoparts Philippines, Inc. (TAP), the parts manufacturing subsidiary of Toyota Motor Corporation in the Philippines, as the company marked the start of exports of transmission assemblies to Japan.

The celebration of a milestone was well deserved. The export of these transmission assemblies meant that they have achieved the highest quality standards of Toyota Motor Corporation of Japan.

"Toyota transmissions made in the Philippines now possess the same level of performance in terms of quality and cost as Japanese-made units," affirmed Toyota Honorary Chairman Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda.

Dr. Toyoda and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo led ceremonies held in the company's manufacturing facility in Santa Rosa, Laguna, south of Manila. The export of transmission assemblies is also a major achievement for the developing Philippine automotive industry.

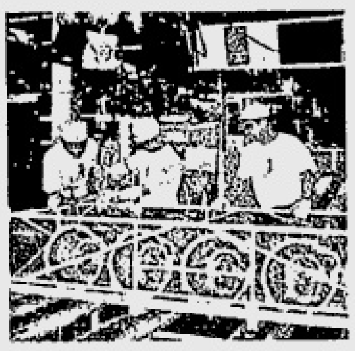
The men and women of TAP are well aware of the significance of this feat, and they want to go further.

Promising to make TAP a stronger company, Aguilar said that they "shall uphold industrial peace and prevent anything that may in any way interfere with operations."

"We commit to work hand-in-hand with management by way of open communication to enhance mutual trust and respect," said Aguilar as they vowed to support the Toyota principles of Continuous Improvement and Respect for People.

These principles have put Toyota to where it is now globally. This same set of principles has positioned the Toyota Group in the Philippines atop its industry.

Guided by these ideals, the employees of the Toyota Group are known for the high quality of the products and services they deliver. They have pushed Toyota to the forefront of the Philippine automotive industry.



These same beliefs are also evident outside the workplace. Toyota's labor and management have also been successful in harmonizing common socio-economic concerns.

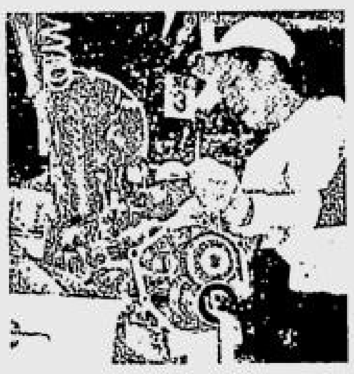
The cooperation that has led to long-term industrial peace and harmony is also demonstrated in Toyota's social development programs.

Employees of the Toyota Group have consistently given time and effort to programs involving environmental preservation, education, health, and community services.

The export of transmission assemblies is just one in a number of milestones already reached by the Toyota Group in the Philippines.

Many more are forecast as the employees of the Toyota Group continue their mission:

"To sustain company profitability, stability, productivity and growth by efficiently engaging in effective financial and resource management for the collective gain of the TOYOTA FAMILY and THE SOCIETY WE SERVE."



Initiate. Participate. Cooperate.

YOUTH POWER 05

Conference and Expo

04 - 05 February 2005
World Trade Center, Hall C
Metro Manila, Philippines

THEME:
"Face the Challenges of Tomorrow"

YOUTH POWER 2005 Conference and Expo, the premier event of the year, is a convergence of Creative Minds for productive and responsible advocacy. An interactive assembly of future leaders, young achievers and major players in business and industries. This breakthrough event will showcase the ideals and potentials of the Filipino Youth through relevant workshops, plenary sessions, exhibition, lectures and competitions.

PRE-EVENT & CONTEST ELIMINATION
Venue: To Be Announced
JANUARY 28, 2005

YOUTH POWER In-House Contests:
- Interpretative Song and Dance Competition
- Modern Cultural Dance Competition
- Youth Power Duo Flair tending / Cocktail Mixing Competition (male and female)
- Youth Power Debate
- Theme Art Contest such as Drawing / Painting, Recycled Art, Essay Writing, Photo Contest, Business Strategic Plan
- Barkada Challenge (sports and team building activities)
- YOUTH POWER Achievement Award (individual and group category)

YOUTH POWER on Academe Agenda:
Mini-Seminars open to different business related course (for educators and tertiary students)
- Marketing Breakthrough: "OUT OF THE BOX" Marketing
- Tips on Website Development
- Enterpreneurial Strategies; Opprtunities and Challenges for the aspiring / future Enterpreneurs
- Pursuing a Career in Media
- Fundamentals in Restaurant Management
- Hear it from the Experts and Job Hunt Guidelines for Career Destination
- Student Life Transition (open to High School)

YOUTH POWER on Leadership Conference:
Open to youth organization leaders, officers, students and youth proffesionals
- Discover your Purpose; Dream Big, Lead Smart
- Solutions to Social and Business Problem; Building a Better Society
- Community Development; Reviving and Rebuilding your Barangay
- Values of Education; What's NEXT STEP after Garduation?
- Values Integration; Bring Out the Principled Leader within You
- Politics and Good Governance; Challenging the Future Leaders
- ICT and Digital Opprtunities: Power of the Matrix

EXHIBIT
- Companies with Corporate Social Responsibility Commitment / Program, Foundations and Non-Government Organizations
- Showcase of the latest products / services and innovation from the business / corporation sectors
- Plus other interactive and educational booth activities from the participating exhibits and sponsors

*Programs subject to change
*Sponsors to be confirmed

Let's realize our vital role in nation building

FREE ADMISSION

Official Billboard provider:
L.C. PASCUAL TRADING

Official Courier:
JRS EXPRESS

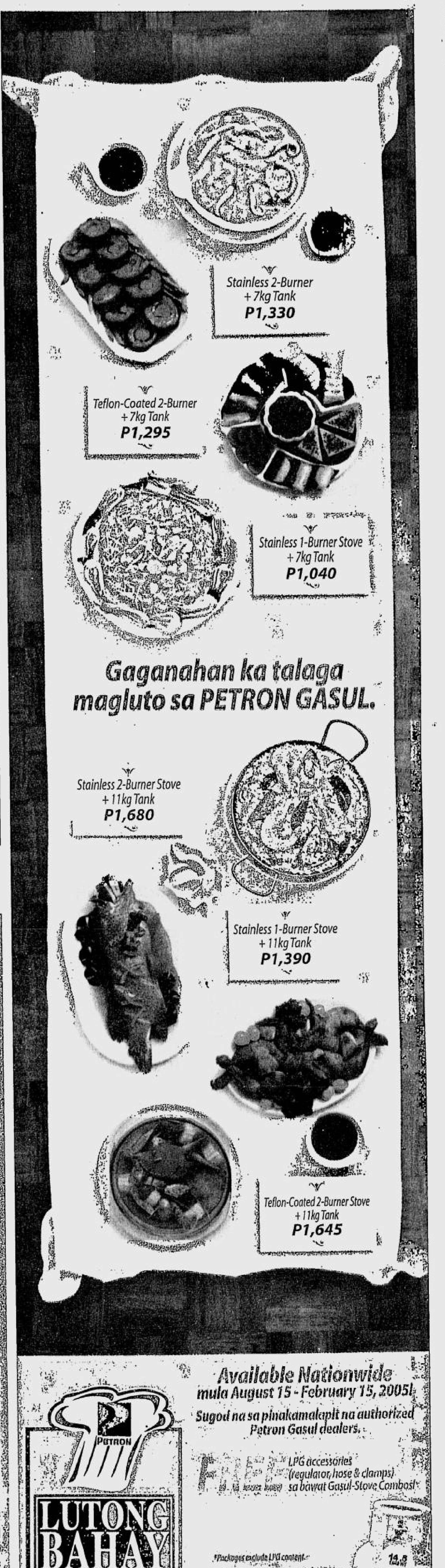
Endorsed by:
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION and NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION

Produced and Organized by:
the next step events planner

In-partnership with:
Philippine Youth SPHERE Group of Networks

For pre-registration forms, contest mechanics & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:
THE NEXT STEP EVENTS PLANNER
Unit 1207 Herrera Tower, V. A. Rufino St., Cor. Valero St., Salcedo Village Makati City
Tel. Nos. : (632) 813-0146 / 893-9729 Telofax: (632) 893-9996 / 843-8878
Cel. Nos. : 0920-5467602 / 0920-8048843

Website : www.thenextstepevents.com
www.youthpower.tk
Email: nextstep@eastern.com.ph
youthpower2005@gmail.com



Stainless 2-Burner
+ 7kg Tank
P1,330

Teflon-Coated 2-Burner
+ 7kg Tank
P1,295

Stainless 1-Burner Stove
+ 7kg Tank
P1,040

Gaganahan ka talaga magluto sa PETRON GASUL.

Stainless 2-Burner Stove
+ 11kg Tank
P1,680

Stainless 1-Burner Stove
+ 11kg Tank
P1,390

Teflon-Coated 2-Burner Stove
+ 11kg Tank
P1,645

LUTONG BAHAY DEAL

Available Nationwide
mula August 15 - February 15, 2005!
Sugod na sa pinakamalapit na authorized Petron Gasul dealers.

FREE LPG accessories (regulator, hose & clamps) sa bawat Gasul-Stove Combos!

*Packages exclude LPG content

Per DTI-NCR Permit #4108, Series of 2004

Cebuano nurse makes it big in Nevada

From page A1

and his school needs. Initially, he wanted to become a doctor. But he settled for the next best thing when he realized his parents could not afford to send him to medical school.

Tan took up nursing at the Cebu State College-Cebu City Medical Center College of Nursing (CCMC) where he graduated *cum laude* in 1990. While waiting for the results of the board exams, Tan volunteered to work at the CCMC, a hospital run by the city government.

In 1992, he took the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Service just to see if he would pass. He did. Then he applied for a job in the United States to find out if a hospital would be willing to hire him. Las Vegas Hospital responded.

The employment agency asked for $4,000 in placement fees and other expenses.

Realizing it was difficult for him to come up with the amount, Tan told his agency that he would not be able to go the United States. But three months later, he received a notice from the US Embassy that his visa application had been approved.

He left on Aug. 25, 1994 with only $200 in his pocket and without any word from the hospital as to when he was supposed to start working. His parents borrowed money from relatives and friends for his airfare. He only paid a portion of the placement fees and promised the agency that he would pay the rest later.

Nightmare

Tan recalled that his first day in the United States was a nightmare. Contrary to what the agency had promised, nobody fetched him and two other CCMC nurses—Junji Navarro and Cielito Tapaya—at the Las Vegas International Airport.

After four hours of waiting and lots of prayers, he placed a collect call to his agency representative in the Philippines. It turned out the one assigned to fetch the group was in another state to pick up another nurse. They were then given phone numbers of two Filipino nurses—Joanna Delarmente and Cecilia Manaay—in Las Vegas, who had arrived two months earlier.

The two asked them to take a cab to their apartment. "The thought of taxi stories from back home heightened my anxiety once more. After a long wait, we boarded a cab," Tan said.

After giving the driver the address, silence filled the cab. Then the driver asked them where they were from. Tan told him meekly "from the Philippines, Cebu."

A long pause followed. Then the driver said "*kumusta*...," bringing relief to the group. It turned out the driver had just come back from Cebu after marrying a Cebuana. He gave the group a quick tour of Las Vegas before bringing them to the apartment.

But the next four months proved to be a test of perseverance. Tan still had no job. He and the newcomers could not stay long with Delarmente because under the leasing law, only four adults could live in a two-bedroom apartment like hers and visitors could stay for only two weeks.

In the second week, Delarmente received an eviction notice. Then he and the others hatched a plan. Tan would hide in the closet if somebody knocked on the door. The three sometimes stayed in the mall until late in the evening so no one would know they were still staying in the apartment.

But Tan decided to make the most of the idle time. He reviewed for the nursing state board exams, with a burning desire to pass it so his family in Cebu would not think his trip was for naught.

After three weeks, the three nurses from Cebu decided to leave. Tan went with Tapaya who had a cousin in San Diego. Tan stayed there for a month, doing household chores and babysitting. Tan then went to Los Angeles and lived with his teacher, Maria Flores, who invited him in after she learned that he was in San Diego.

Penniless

Homesick and penniless, his self-esteem plunged. There were times he wanted to give up—just pass the exams and go home.

Then a card came from a friend in Cebu. Folded inside were $17 in old bills and a note: "Bai, these are the dollars I saved over time that I could share with you. Hope it will help you a little bit, Merry Christmas." Tan cried.

Finally, a call from Las Vegas Hospital came in December 1994. He started working as a nursing assistant, getting only $8 per hour. He changed diapers, bathed patients and helped them use the bedpan.

Tan started working as staff nurse when he passed his resident nurse board examination in February 1995. But he could barely sit down and eat lunch because he was assigned to take care of 32 patients.

His hard work paid off. He was named nurse supervisor, then assistant director of nursing and later director of nursing services. He was invited to join the faculty of the University and Community College System of Nevada.

Now, he is a full-time professor, teaching Medical Surgical and Psychiatric Nursing. He also runs two psychiatric clinics, along with two psychiatrists, as an advance nurse practitioner.

Compassionate

He also makes the rounds in emergency rooms in the Las Vegas valley, doing psychiatric consultation and evaluation. Tan is also a Nurse Education consultant in Nathan Adelson Hospice.

Then he developed a training program for "end of life care," which was designed to educate student nurses on how to take care for terminally ill patients like those afflicted with cancer and AIDS.

"With the nursing shortage, hospice care is in dire need of caring and compassionate nurses," Tan said. The program is now in full swing after getting a donation of close to $100,000 from the MGM-Mirage-Bellagio Casino.

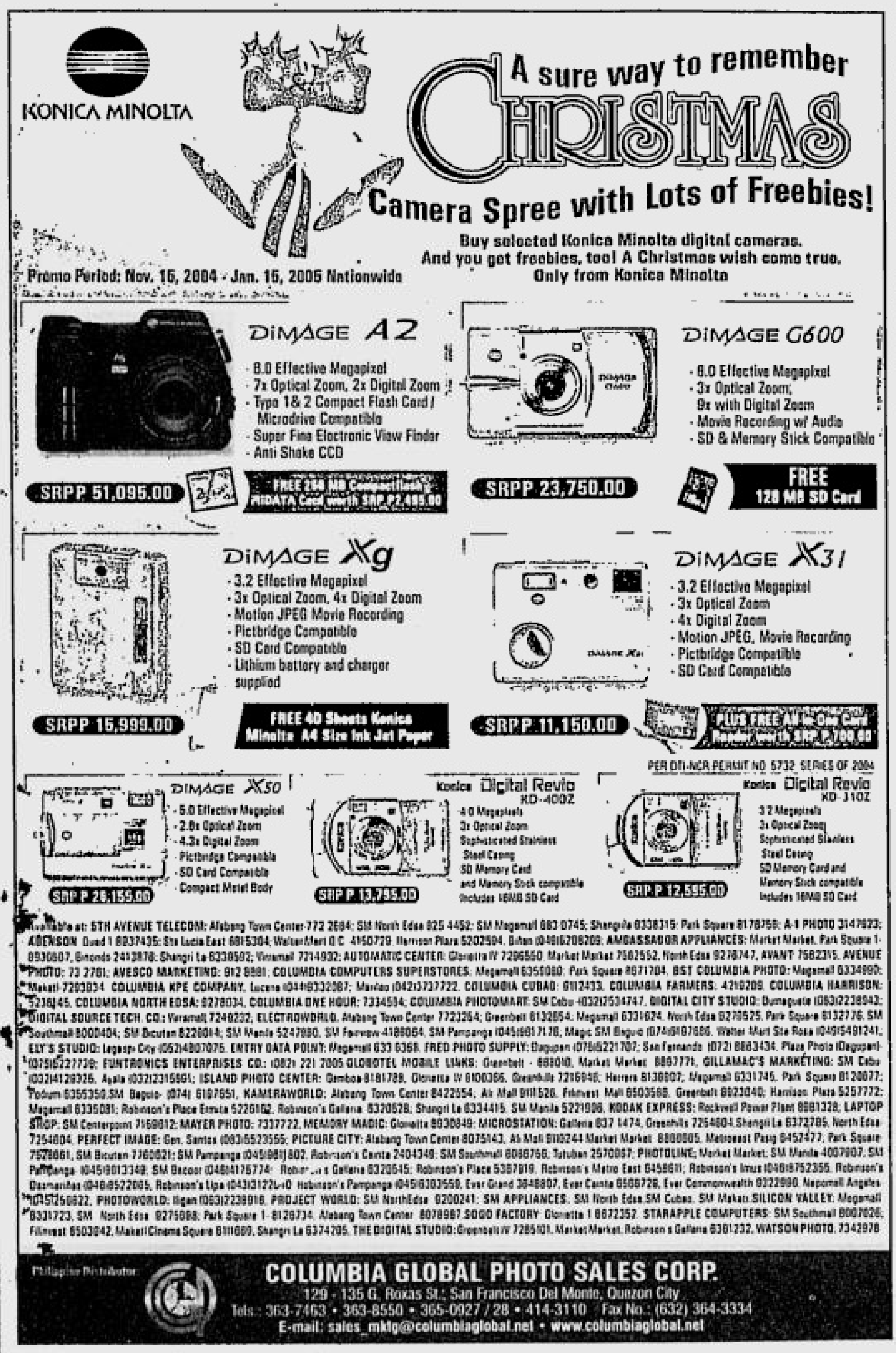
In October, Tan said he was informed that he had been chosen as someone belonging to the top 5 percent of the educators in America. His story is included in the book titled "Who's Who Among America's Top Teachers."

Tan knows how to spread his blessings. Last year, he and Tapaya formed the Maria Libron Flores Nursing Scholarship Foundation in honor of the teacher who allowed him to stay in Los Angeles. The foundation provides scholarship to two nursing students.

He also started the Yolanda Alforque-Tan Scholarship Foundation, a high school scholarship named after his mother. Tan said he would pay the secondary education of at least two poor graduates of San Nicolas Elementary School, where his mother had taught until she retired.

He also plans to put up a Hospice Care Center in Cebu, which will provide care to terminally ill patients.

Anson EMPORIUM
RAFFLE DAZZLE OF PRIZES
GET A CHANCE TO WIN ANY OF OUR 50 MAJOR AND MINOR APPLIANCES
PROMO PERIOD: OCTOBER 1, 2004 - APRIL 30, 2005 SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS
PER DTI-NCR Permit #1919 Series of 2004
SAMSUNG
SP-61L3HRX
- 155cm (61") DLP/DNIe high definition picture quality
- Anti-glare screen
- Cinema progressive scan
- SRS tru surround XT virtual 5.1 channel
=P=259,000.00 FREE PTV Rack
SP-56L7HRX
- 142cm (56") DLP/DNIe high definition picture quality
- High contrast ratio 2500:1
- Cinema progressive scan
- SRS tru surround XT virtual 5.1 channel
=P=299,000.00
SP-54T8HL
- 137cm (54") projector TV multi-HDTV ready
- Stable & flicker free
- Cinema progressive scan
- W/integrated rack
=P=129,900.00
PS-42D4ST
- 107cm (42") plasma TV
- DCDi faroudja lab technology process
- Cinema progressive scan
- Versatile connectivity
BEFORE ~~250,000.00~~ NOW =P=229,900.00 FREE DVD combo player worth P11,995.00
CT-29M20
- 73.6cm (29") Dnie jr. CTV
- AV multi-system/Mts stereo
- Turbo plus sound
- Zoom mode & closed caption
BEFORE ~~31,995.00~~ NOW =P=29,995.00 FREE CTV Rack
CT-21T20
- 53cm. (21") Dnie jr
- AV multi-system/mts stereo
- Turbo plus sound
- Zoom mode & close caption
BEFORE ~~15,995.00~~ NOW =P=13,995.00 FREE CTV Rack
SC-D250
- Mini DV w/2.5" LCD monitor
- Easy Q/EZ navigator
- Built-in digital Camera
- Memorystick feature
BEFORE ~~P42,490.00~~ NOW=P=39,990.00 FREE bag, tape, memory stick & tripod
MAX-DJ650
- 2700w P.M.P.O DVD mini component
- 3 DVD changer (DVD/VCD/CD/MP3)
- Karaoke function
- 3 sound mode effects
=P=14,495.00 FREE Magnavision DVD title
=P=29,995.00 FREE Magnavision DVD title
HT-DS420
- 400 watts DVD home theater system
- Multi-disc playback & Am/Fm tuner
- Built-in 5.1 channel amplifier
- Dolby pro logic II & DTS
RT-44MASM
- 386 ltrs (13.5cuft) frost free
- Silver nano technology
- i-cool cooling system
- Deodorizer function
=P=22,495.00
=P=64,900.00
RS-21NCMS
- 572ltrs (20cuft) side by side frost free
- Silver nano technology
- Twin cooling, multi-air flow system
- Deodorizer function
WA-80R3N
- 8 kg. Fully automatic wash. Machine
- Silver nano technology
- Powerful tornado system
- Bio magic filter
=P=13,495.00 FREE 3 in 1 Household kit
FREE Anson GIFT CERTIFICATE ON GREAT SELECTIONS.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 5978 Series of 2004
WE BEAT ANYBODY'S PRICE!
VISIT OUR BRANCHES AT :
ANSON BUILDING, AYALA CENTER A. ARNAIZ ST., MAKATI CITY
TEL. NOS.: 843-5046 / 892-2206 / 892-1392
3RD FLOOR THE LANDMARK
TEL. NOS.: 810-9990 LOC. 2105, 2107 / 819-1513-14 / 819-1354 / 817-0241
ROBINSONS GALLERIA EDSA NODE LEVEL-3
TEL. NOS.: 632-9479 / 632-9482-85
800 SALAZAR ST., BINONDO, MANILA
TEL. NOS.: 243-2097 / 2432101 / 243-2092
ALABANG TOWN CENTER MADRIGAL AVE., (Beside BPI)
TEL. NOS.: 772-3880-96
FOR YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS AND CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS,
LOOK FOR DEXTER, TESSIE, FROILAN or DONG
TEL. NOS.: 845-3006-09 / 892-1357 / Fax: 892-1300
ANTHONY & CECILE (THE LANDMARK)
TEL. NOS.: 819-0701 / 819-1354 / 817-0241 OR 16 Fax: 819-0702


KONICA MINOLTA
A sure way to remember CHRISTMAS
Camera Spree with Lots of Freebies!
Buy selected Konica Minolta digital cameras.
And you get freebies, too! A Christmas wish come true.
Only from Konica Minolta
Promo Period: Nov. 16, 2004 - Jan. 16, 2005 Nationwide
DiMAGE A2
- 8.0 Effective Megapixel
- 7x Optical Zoom, 2x Digital Zoom
- Type 1 & 2 Compact Flash Card / Microdrive Compatible
- Super Fine Electronic View Finder
- Anti Shake CCD
SRPP 51,095.00
FREE 256 MB CompactFlash RIDATA Card worth SRP P2,495.00
DiMAGE G600
- 6.0 Effective Megapixel
- 3x Optical Zoom; 9x with Digital Zoom
- Movie Recording w/ Audio
- SD & Memory Stick Compatible
SRPP 23,750.00
FREE 128 MB SD Card
DiMAGE Xg
- 3.2 Effective Megapixel
- 3x Optical Zoom, 4x Digital Zoom
- Motion JPEG Movie Recording
- Pictbridge Compatible
- SD Card Compatible
- Lithium battery and charger supplied
SRPP 15,999.00
FREE 40 Sheets Konica Minolta A4 Size Ink Jet Paper
DiMAGE X31
- 3.2 Effective Megapixel
- 3x Optical Zoom
- 4x Digital Zoom
- Motion JPEG, Movie Recording
- Pictbridge Compatible
- SD Card Compatible
SRPP 11,150.00
PLUS FREE All-In-One Card Reader worth SRP P 700.00
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO 5732 SERIES OF 2004
DiMAGE X50
- 5.0 Effective Megapixel
- 2.8x Optical Zoom
- 4.3x Digital Zoom
- Pictbridge Compatible
- SD Card Compatible
- Compact Metal Body
SRP P 26,155.00
Konica Digital Revio KD-400Z
4.0 Megapixels
3x Optical Zoom
Sophisticated Stainless Steel Casing
SD Memory Card and Memory Stick compatible
Includes 16MB SD Card
SRP P 13,795.00
Konica Digital Revio KD-310Z
3.2 Megapixels
3x Optical Zoom
Sophisticated Stainless Steel Casing
SD Memory Card and Memory Stick compatible
Includes 16MB SD Card
SRP P 12,595.00
Philippine Distributor
COLUMBIA GLOBAL PHOTO SALES CORP.
129 - 135 G. Roxas St., San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City
Tels.: 363-7463 • 363-8550 • 365-0027 / 28 • 414-3110 Fax No.: (632) 364-3334
E-mail: sales_mktg@columbiaglobal.net • www.columbiaglobal.net

Nikon
Cool Christmas with COOLPIX Giveaways
Promo Period from Nov. 15, 2004 to Jan. 15, 2005
Capture special memories this Christmas with the Nikon cameras. Buy selected Nikon Camera models and you're entitled to holiday giveaways that will surely make your Christmas even more memorable.
COOLPIX 8800
- 8.0 Megapixels, 10x Zoom-Nikkor lens, CompactFlash™ Card Type I/II, Li-ion rechargeable battery
FREE! Velbon Tripod
SRP P 58,650.00
COOLPIX 5100
- 5.0 Megapixels, 3x Zoom-Nikkor lens, SD Memory card, 1.6 inches TFT LCD, AA rechargeable battery
FREE! 128 MB SD CARD
SRP P 19,300.00
COOLPIX 4800
- 4.0 Megapixels, 8.3x Optical zoom, SD Memory card, Li-ion rechargeable battery
SRP P 22,370.00
COOLPIX 4200
- 4.0 Megapixels, 3x Optical Zoom-Nikkor ED Lens, 4x Digital Zoom, 12MB Internal Memory, Pictbridge Compatible
SRP P 21,640.00
COOLPIX 3700
- 3.2 Megapixels, 3X Optical Zoom, Macro Shooting as close as 4cm, with 16MB Memory Card, TV size movie with audio recording
SRP P 17,920.00
COOLPIX 3200
- 3.2 Megapixels, 3X Optical Zoom-Nikkor Lens, 14.5MB internal Memory, Continuous Movie Recording w/ Audio AA Ni-Mh
SRP P 15,590.00
DIGITAL SLR CAMERA D70 RIDATA
- 6.1 Megapixels RGB CCD Image Sensor 3 fps up to 20 Shots Continuous Shooting, Pictbridge Compatible CompactFlash™ Card Type I/II and Microdrive™ Card
FREE! 256 MB CF Card SRP P57,225.00
SRP P83,950.00 FREE! 256 MB CF Card SAVE P 6,000.00
SRP P73,115.00 FREE! 256 MB CF Card
COOLPIX 8400
- 8.0 Effective Megapixels
- 3.5x Optical Zoom
- Wideangle Ultra Zoom
- Magnesium Alloy Body
FREE! Velbon Tripod
SRP P 52,630.00
COOLPIX 2200
- 2.0 Megapixels, 3X Optical Zoom-Nikkor Lens, 14.5MB Internal Memory, Continuous Movie Recording
FREE! 128 MB SD Card
SRP P 12,250.00
COOLPIX 5200
- 5.1 Megapixels 3x Optical Zoom-Nikkor ED Lens, 4x Digital Zoom, Aluminum Body 1.5 inch Macro Mode, 12MB Internal Memory
FREE! 128 MB SD Card
SRP P 25,550.00
D1x
- 5.33 Megapixels, 3 frames/sec., 9 consecutive shots, CompactFlash™ Card Type I/II Microdrive™ Card
SRP P200,000.00
D2H
- 4.1 Megapixels, 8 frames/sec. consecutive shots, CompactFlash™ Card Type I/II Microdrive™ Card
SRP P177,550.00
COOLPIX 8700
- 8.0 Megapixels, 8X Optical Zoom-Nikkor ED Lens, 12 Scene Modes, Magnesium-Alloy body, Vari-angle LCD Monitor, P.S.A.M Exposure Modes, CompactFlash™ Type I/II and Microdrive™ Compatible
FREE! Velbon Tripod
SRP P 55,150.00
COOLPIX 5700
- 5.0 Megapixels, 8x Optical Zoom-Nikkor Lens, 4X Digital Zoom Magnesium-Alloy body, Vari-angle LCD Monitor, 32 MB CompactFlash™ Card, Lithium Ion Rechargeable Battery
FREE! Velbon Tripod
SRP P 50,700.00
COOLPIX 5400
- 5.1 Megapixels, 4X Zoom-Nikkor Lens, CompactFlash™ Card Type I/II, 512MB/1GB Microdrive™ with 32MB CF Card
FREE! Velbon Tripod
SRP P 40,600.00
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO 5730 SERIES OF 2004
Exclusive Philippine Distributor
COLUMBIA GLOBAL PHOTO SALES CORP.
129 - 135 G. Roxas St., San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City
Tels.: 363 7463 • 363 8550 • 365 0027 / 28 • 414 3110 Fax No.: (632) 364 3334
E-mail: sales_mktg@columbiaglobal.net • www.columbiaglobal.net

Lanterns prove RP can achieve synergy

From page A1

"*Ito ang mga parol ng sambayanang Pilipino at sana magningning ang mga ito buong taon* (These are the lanterns of the Filipino nation, and I hope they shine throughout the year)," he said.

Bayanihan spirit

Ambassadors Mario Schuff of Argentina, Jorge Montero of Chile, as well as the American and Japanese consuls, their families and friends were there for the event.

Mayor Oscar Rodriguez told guests that the lanterns were the products of craftsmen and their families in the villages of San Fernando, dubbed as the "Christmas capital of the Philippines."

"The lanterns you see now were made in the spirit of *bayanihan* (cooperation)," Rodriguez said of the hard work of residents of Barangays San Juan, San Jose, Dolores, Sta. Lucia, Sto. Niño, San Nicolas, Del Pilar, Sto. Rosario and San Felipe.

"Like the Star of Bethlehem that led the Three Magi to the humble manger of Christ more than 2,000 years ago, they symbolize hope for the renewal of faith in God and love for others," Rodriguez said.

Lantern performance

The lantern makers worked three months to produce the masterpieces of Christmas art. The city government gave each village P110,000, while residents contributed money for materials and food expenses of the craftsmen.

In the first round, the nine lanterns "performed" to the tune of different melodies lasting five minutes each.

In the second round, the lanterns were divided into three groups and each group "performed" for three minutes each.

In the third and last round, nine lanterns performed simultaneously for two minutes.

The audience, standing shoulder to shoulder, composed mostly of families, were awed by the visual performance.

One minute, the lanterns were stars, flowers or jewels. The next minute, they were one magnificent assemblage of patterns.

What was equally amazing was that the lanterns twinkled and changed color in time with the music, whether it was a traditional marching tune, a Yuletide carol or the Sex Bomb Christmas medley.

Craftsmen say the "magic engine" of every giant lantern is its rotor, an aluminum sheet rolled into a barrel. To maneuver it, a used car wheel is attached to the barrel.

The barrel is also equipped with a main switch that is connected to an electrical outlet.

How they do it

But how do craftsmen design the lighting pattern?

Selected surfaces of the barrel are covered with masking tape. This way, only the exposed portions have contact with electricity.

Hairpins act as conductors of electricity from the barrel to the bulbs. Electric wires are hooked to the hairpins that are neatly welded in a row on a steel bar just below the barrel. The wires, in turn, are connected to the light bulbs fitted inside the lantern.

When a barrel's switch is turned on, and the barrel is twisted in a particular direction, a specific set of bulbs lights up.

A lantern can have 4 to 10 rotors, depending on the complexity of its design.

The illusion of dancing lights is, however, achieved by the adeptness of the rotor operators.

These men, whose hands hold the wheels, actually dance to the accompanying music to get the right tempo for the lanterns.

And the winner is

Everything depends on creativity and the human touch, lantern designer Roland Quiambao said, adding that it would be hard to achieve the same effect if one were to computerize the rotor.

Thirteen judges chose Quiambao's entry, the San Felipe lantern, as the most beautiful this year. This was the second consecutive year that the village of San Felipe won the much-coveted championship trophy.

The lanterns of the villages of Sto. Rosario and San Jose came in second and third, respectively.

The festival traces its roots to religious traditions introduced by the Augustinian Order.

From simple candles and oil lamps wrapped in intricate paper or metal housing, the lanterns evolved into *lubenas*.

The lubenas are lanterns fashioned in the shape of birds, fishes and stars. Mounted on bamboo poles, they light the paths of the patron saints during processions.

The lanterns got bigger and more intricate when the town got electricity in the 1930s.

Not so festive Christmas for local decor makers

From page A1

tries whose lower costs are stealing buyers away.

The irony is that the Philippines, a predominantly Christian country where Christmas is one of the most important events of the year, is losing ground to countries which regard it in commercial terms only.

The Philippines' share of the market has been slipping since the late 1990s. Department of Trade and Industry figures say that in 1997, the Philippines accounted for 1.91 percent of the $4.3 billion worth of Christmas decoration exports worldwide.

By 2001, that figure had slipped to 1.06 percent of the total, although the market had grown to $5.41 billion worldwide.

China has been the No. 1 exporter of Christmas decorations since the 1990s with the Philippines ranking ninth, behind even Taiwan and Thailand.

Falling exports

From $69 million worth of Christmas decorations exports in 1999, the Philippines saw this figure fall to $58 million by 2001. China saw its exports grow from $4.08 billion to $4.319 billion in the same period.

Marlene Villareal, head of the Christmas Decors Producers and Exporters Association of the Philippines, said the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks in the United States and foreign travel advisories about potential terrorism here hurt the industry further, discouraging foreign buyers from visiting to look at samples.

Philippine manufacturers can rarely afford to take all their samples to trade shows abroad, said Tami Filler-Leung, president of Tamilee Decors, an industry leader.

But Villareal said: "The main reason we are really losing is that a lot of our buyers started shifting their orders from us to China because they (the Chinese) can copy our designs and offer it at one-third a price of ours."

The Christmas decorations industry had been a success story for the Philippines just a decade ago, particularly since its growth was spearheaded by small, cottage industries.

Many of the companies began with people making decorations in their own homes, only to find themselves expanding as Western buyers took notice of the fine craftsmanship and original designs.

Typical producer

Filler-Leung is a typical producer who started off making decorations for friends. After joining a trade show out of curiosity, she found an eager foreign buyer in 1987 and quickly expanded.

Her home was transformed into an impromptu factory. "We had boxes in our bedroom. The only place I could sit quietly was in the toilet," she recalled.

At its peak, Tamilee Decors employed 1,000 people. Today, her company only employs about half that number.

Many of the other companies are still small, employing only 10-20 employees. They rely on subcontractors who often work from home, Villareal said.

Philippine manufacturers, who rely on hand-made products, cannot compete with China's low labor costs, not to mention low power rates and huge raw material supplies, Villareal said.

As a result, some Filipino decor makers have already set up operations in China, she added.

But Villareal remains hopeful the Philippines can regain some lost ground with its higher-quality product.

"What I noticed is that starting this year, some of the buyers who moved to China are coming back to the Philippines," she said.

Better Philippine designs and quality should be an advantage in reaching the high-end market with such products like wreaths, ornate table-top Christmas baskets, candelabra and large figurines of angels and the Nativity scene, Villareal said.

"A lot of the buyers who are more discriminating continued buying from us," she recalled.

The cultural affinities of the Westernized, Christianized, English-speaking Filipinos are also an advantage.

Understanding West

"The Filipinos understand Christmas. We understand how the West thinks, the pace of the West. We know what the buyers really like," Villareal said.

Filler-Leung, however, warns that some of her designers have been lured away to work in China.

To bring down costs, Philippine decorations manufacturers are cooperating instead of competing, with common sourcing of raw materials, sharing of subcontractors and even helping supply each other for large orders, Villareal said.

Philippine manufacturers should find a niche such as with limited edition products. "There are specialty stores that don't like the manufactured look," Filler-Leung said.

"We have friends in China who have been enticing us to go to China and set up a factory there," she added.

But she said "my husband and I set up this business for the Philippines and to give jobs to the Filipino people."

If they can no longer remain viable in the Philippines, "we will probably not go to China. We will just retire," Filler-Leung said. *AFP*

SONY
WALKMAN
Let The Music Play On With ATRAC3plus
ATRAC3plus TECHNOLOGY
MORE TUNES, BETTER SOUND QUALITY!
AMS
SonicStage
atrac3
MP3
MEGA BASS
MZ-NHF600
MZ-NHF700
D-NE300/S
D-NF400/S
Available soon!

Sony's sensational, high-performance audio compression format gives you exciting advantages over other formats. Advanced compression technology lets you record* as many as 490+ songs on a single CD. Exceptional sound quality allows you to fully appreciate crystal clear high notes, solid mids and warm, bassy lows so you can enjoy up to 130² hours of non-stop playback time!

Fast & accessible music

- Double Density: Extend MD to 305MB
- PC Data Storage Capability
- 100X Music Files Transfer
- One Touch Download
- Battery Life up to 26 hours
- 1 Line FM/AM Digital Tuner LCD Remote¹

The convenience of a CD

- Multi-Codec Playback Capability
- (CD-TEXT) to show song title, album and artist name
- Large LCD on unit for east navigation
- Long battery life of up to 130 hours playback
- FM / AM digital tuner³

CD music that fits your lifestyle

- Multi-Codec Playback Capability
- Compact Size
- High Quality Speaker *(Bass reflex Speaker System)*
- RMS 60W+60W
- 4 Line dot matrix LCD (Back Light)
- Full Logic Cassette Deck(Auto Reverse)
- FM AM Digital synthesized tuner

Unique design with ATRAC3/MP3 playback

- New CD Tuner Design
- Sonic Stage Version 2.0 Software Supplied
- 2-Line Dot LCD with Back-Lit
- 4-Electronic Sound Modes
- Mega Bass
- 90 PMPO
- Bass Reflex System
- Full Range Speakers

Exclusively distributed by **Sony Philippines, Inc.** 26/F Tower 1 The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Ave. cor Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
For inquiries call the Customer Information Center (CIC) at 878-7600 or send e-mail to **cic.sph@ap.sony.com**. Insist on a Sony official warranty card with your purchase.
www.sony.com.ph

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Saddam trial process opens with grilling of 'Chemical Ali'

BAGHDAD—War crimes trials against Saddam Hussein and his closest lieutenants moved forward on Saturday when his feared cousin known as "Chemical Ali" was the first to face a formal interview with the chief investigating magistrate.

Iraq's US-backed government had promised trials would begin before next month's election, the first free vote since Saddam rose to power three decades ago. But the judge stressed his meetings with Ali Hassan al-Majid and the former Defense Minister Sultan Hashem were just the start of a long process.

"Hurrying will not help this case," Raed Jouhi said.

Official and silent film of the two hearings showed both men looking relaxed, chatting and smiling under guard. Majid leaned on a walking stick, possibly still suffering from wounds sustained while on the run from invading US forces last year.

Some Iraqi officials have dismissed the publicity as little more than an election campaign ploy by Prime Minister Iyad Allawi. However that may be, the 67-year-old ousted dictator and his aides have now been given access to lawyers.

After brief appearances in July to hear possible charges of crimes against humanity and genocide against Kurds gassed by troops under Majid's control, the formal process of deciding who is tried for what is under way, a year after Saddam was caught.

The Jan. 30 election will furnish a national assembly that will draw up a new constitution and, Washington hopes, give Iraq a legitimate government to replace the de facto US rule that filled the vacuum left by the overthrow of the Baath Party.

US officials concede an insurgency among Saddam's Sunni Arab minority poses the major threat to the chances of forming a representative legislature. Three election offices in Sunni northern Iraq came under attack in the latest incidents.

Two people were killed and eight were wounded, including six National Guards, when mortars landed on an election office in Dujail, 50 km north of Baghdad. It is one of many around the country registering and educating voters.

A mortar also landed on an election office in the northern oil capital of Kirkuk, where ethnic tensions among Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen are high ahead of a poll many want delayed locally.

National Guards fought off gunmen who attacked an election office 60 km southwest of Kirkuk.

Saboteurs who are hampering efforts to restore Iraq's oil wealth and contributing to a cold winter without heat and light for many, blew up a key oil export pipeline near Kirkuk, halting flows for the second time in a week.

In the big northern city of Mosul, scene of widespread bloodshed in recent weeks, seven children in a school bus were hit when a roadside bomb missed a US patrol. One child died.

The Turkish foreign ministry said several guards from its Baghdad Embassy were killed in Mosul on Friday and others were missing.

SADDAM in shackles during the day of his Iraqi special tribunal hearing in this July 1, 2004, photo. REUTERS

Witnesses saw four people killed in one car, apparently Turks.

"We recognize that there are some real concerns," a Western official, briefing reporters this week on condition of anonymity, said of the need to secure an election for which US troop numbers are being increased by some 10 percent to 150,000.

Asked what would happen if, as some Sunni leaders fear and others are encouraging, the 20 percent Sunni Arab minority stays or is kept away from the polling stations, the official said: "Clearly we want a representative assembly. What will happen if there isn't sufficient Sunni participation for this to be representative I wouldn't want to speculate."

A lack of Sunni voters would boost the share of the Shiite 60 percent and the Kurds, who account for up to 15 percent.

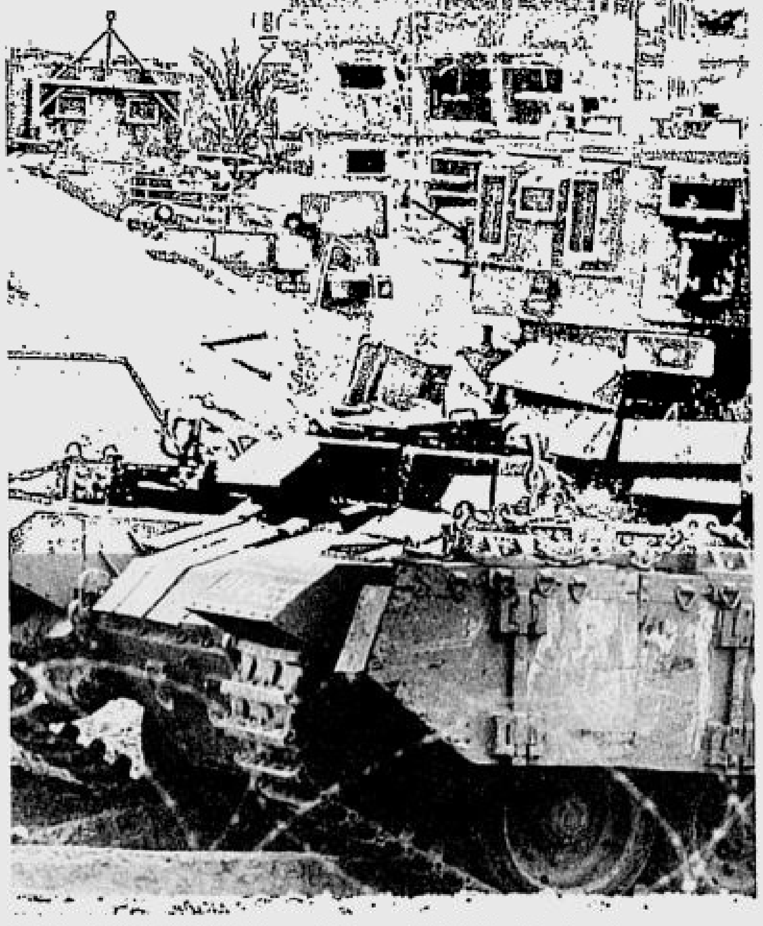
Shiite clerics have rejected accusations from Allawi's secular allies that they are a stalking horse for Iranian-style rule by Shiite ayatollahs—a line taken up by US officials who say Iraqi clerics prefer secular rule.

President George W. Bush has already warned US adversaries in Tehran not to interfere.

Jouhi told reporters there was no set timetable for the trials, each of which will be prepared by different judges.

Majid and Hashem appeared in turn, both being released from handcuffs and seated on a folding chair in a bare room before Jouhi's desk, on which lay a Koran wrapped in green cloth.

Jouhi, who presided over the brief hearings for Saddam and the others in July, said both men on Saturday had legal counsel. *Reuters*



ISRAELI armored vehicles roll toward the Khan Yunis refugee camp in the Gaza strip from a military staging area in the Gush Katif settlement bloc, Dec. 18. The incursion followed a bomb attack by Palestinian militants last Sunday that left five Israeli soldiers dead near a border crossing into Egypt at Rafah, also in southern Gaza. AFP

Israel pulls out of Gaza after killing 11 Palestinians

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—Israeli troops moved out of a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Gaza on Saturday night, the army said, ending a two-day raid that killed 11 Palestinians and wounded dozens, the largest Israeli military operation since Yasser Arafat's death last month.

The raid in Khan Younis was launched Friday in response to Palestinian mortar and rocket attacks over the past week. Israel had said it would refrain from major offensives in the run-up to the Jan. 9 Palestinian elections, but would take action if attacked.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Likud Party and the opposition Labor Party worked to finalize their pact to form a coalition government amid reports the new Cabinet—which Sharon seeks to bolster his government as he carries out a planned Gaza withdrawal—could be sworn in as early as Thursday.

Residents of Khan Younis said they saw 10 Israeli tanks pulling out of the area Saturday evening. Palestinian security confirmed the troops had left.

In the Khan Younis fighting Saturday, two militants were killed by Israeli tank fire in separate incidents, Palestinian hospital officials said. The body of a third Palestinian shot in the head was recovered Saturday morning, medical officials said. It was unclear whether he was a militant.

A total of 11 Palestinians, including at least seven militants, were killed and 43 others wounded, since Israeli tanks and bulldozers entered the camp Friday. A Palestinian ambulance driver and five children under the age of 16 were among the wounded. One Israeli soldier also was wounded.

Hundreds of residents who had evacuated their homes began returning to the camp even though the area was engulfed in complete darkness because the electric grid had been damaged in the operation. Some residents found their homes demolished or damaged but officials said it was not immediately clear how many.

The raid was in response to more than 50 mortar and rocket attacks launched by Palestinians over the past week which killed a Thai worker in a Jewish settlement and injured 17 other people, including 11 soldiers, the army said.

The army said some houses used by militants to launch mortars or rockets were targeted in the operation.

On Saturday, Palestinian militants in northern Gaza launched three homemade rockets, two of which landed in Israel but caused no injuries or damage, the army said.

Under the Likud-Labor coalition plan, Labor leader Shimon Peres would become vice premier, a post he would share with Likud Cabinet Minister Ehud Olmert. *AP*

CURE BAD BREATH NOW
Don't be a foul mouth.
Eliminate bad breath and related problem of sour/bitter tastes, dry mouth, thick pasty saliva, post nasal drip, phlegm in throat, white coating in tongue with
THERABREATH KIT
Free use of Halimeter to detect the source of bacteria and monitoring bad breath condition
Call: 0915-4309207
0917-8511049

BUY & SELL (1 carat up)
Get the Maximum Value of your Diamonds.
Cash Payment
SAFE. NO RISK.
Traveling Expenses Provided In case transaction will be done.
Diamondsources, Inc.
Email: buyandsell@diamondsources.com.ph
Monday - Friday by Appointment
(632) 636-2815 Manila • Cell: (0917) 518-4090

VARICOSE & SPIDER VEINS
CAN BE TREATED WITHOUT SURGERY
Sclerotherapy is virtually painless and performed in our offices on an out-patient basis.
Dr. John T. Cenica
JANCEN VARICOSE VEIN TREATMENT CENTER
526-6297 • 521-1444 (Manila)
Txt ur questions to (0917) 528-7897
Suite 33-C, 2/F Midland Plaza (besides Robinson's Place) M. Adriatico St., Ermita, Mla.
SOON TO OPEN
TOMAS MORATO HOTEL REMBRANDT BRANCH
Website: www.jancencosmeticsurgery.com

FRIENDS.CAREERS.SUCCESS.
make it happen this Christmas!
A Special Gift for family Members, Friends and You!
PERSONALITY AND EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT
GROOMING MODELING ACTING
The gift that lasts for a lifetime
Enroll NOW at any level and get the NEXT LEVEL FREE!
Choose to start classes anytime before February 28, 2005
Enrollment must be before December 31, 2004
MAKE IT HAPPEN NOW! CALL TODAY FOR DETAILS.
892 9511
John Robert Powers
www.johnrobertpowers.com
Casmer Building, 195 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati
CONVENIENT PARKING NEARBY
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-645 Series of 2004
SAVE UP TO P30,000!

NEGOSYONG FOODCART
(EARN P20th - P30th / month)
BARYABALLS STATION
FRANCHISE P65th ONLY (PROMO)
SQUIDBALL, KIKIAM, SHRIMP BALL, SIOPAO, SIOMAI, HOTDOG SANDWICH, HAMBURGER, GULAMAN, ETC.
WE PROVIDE SITES
(QC, MLA., PASIG, CAMANAVA, LAGUNA & CAVITE)
TRAINING, MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE & PRODUCTS
TEL. NOS. 995-7099 / 995-7103
(Ms. ANNE)
Rm. 207 St. Anthony Bldg., Cubao, Quezon City
RESERVE NOW & GET BIG DISCOUNT!!!

Good Location. Good View
BAGUIO VACATION APTS
Brand New
P3,500/day 2BR 5 Beds
P4,500/day 3BR 10 beds
- Extra Beds / cooking allowed
- Spacious Garden for Jogging / biking
- Foggy
- Beautiful sunset view
- Clubhouse w/ meeting rooms & fireplace

Pines Garden Villas Subd.
Asm Road, Baguio Circumferential Road,
09213417747.0744455546.09189403711.8522466

KITANO
Call now at: 890-5310 • 890-5320
890-5327 • 896-7764
e-mail ad: k8office@yahoo.com
website: www.nlboworld.com
HEAVY DUTY BINDERS
Wire Binder WB-4025D NEW
Plastic Comb Binder
40 Holes (14") 24 Holes (14") BM-C24D
MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE
- Adjustable printing position
- Pre-set counter
- 120 copies per minute
- Dual operation
SD-8800
BILL COUNTERS NEW
- UV Counterfeit Detector
- 900 notes per minute
MC-2088
MC-8700II
- UV Counterfeit Detector
- Variable Speed
- Preset and Addition Mode
- Note Detection
CHECKWRITERS
CW-1600 - Multi-Currency - 14-digits - HEAVY DUTY
- 16-digits
- With Calculator
- Embossed Printing
- HEAVY DUTY
KI-880
LAMINATOR NEW
13 inches
LM-330A
- Adjustable Temperature
- 4 HEAVY DUTY Rollers
Other Sizes: 3 & 12.5 inches
BUNDY CLOCKS
- Two color Printing - W/ Musical Melody
- Auto Card Feed - Auto Column Shifting
- Back-up Battery - HEAVY DUTY

WATER REFILING STATION BUSINESS
Complete with:
- Ozonators
- Ultra Violet range
- Filters
- Stainless Tanks
- Racks Mounted / Stand Alone
- Transportable
- No Drilling / No Cementing
- Quick Return on Investment
- Profitable
- Low Maintenance
- No Franchise Fees/ No Royalties
- Better than Reverse Osmosis
- Only 30¢ Per Gal.
- Small Space 6 Sq.m. only
- 2000 gallon a day
- No wasted water like RO
- 100% water recovery

at P99,000
ELECTROMEX
L. Cruz cor. Shaw Mand. City
531-6782•535-9069

ODOR REMOVER AIR PURIFIER
TOTAL ODOR & GERM REMOVAL WITHOUT CHEMICALS
Car / Home / Office / Industrial
- No air-condition needed for garbage
- Safe for humans and pets.
- Maintenance Free
- No need for toxic chemicals (Lysol, Chlorox, Alcohol, Etc.)
- We will challenge any ionizer or any imported ozonator in the market anytime
- FREE DEMO w/ money back guarantee
- Remove tobacco smoke, toilet, pet, kulob, spoiled food, wet paint, sewer, kitchen & septic odor.

OZONATORS
535-9069

idac
AIRCONDITIONING SYSTEM
Split Type Aircon
1 hp P16,500.00
1.5hp P18,500 2hp P25,000
Free Installation!
Call 886-6696 • 788-0221

SKYNET TRAVEL CORPORATION IATA PTAA
We are open on Sundays from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm
WE ALSO OFFER OTHER INT. DESTINATIONS, LCL TOUR PKGS, PASSPORT, DOCUMENTATION & VISA ASSISTANCE
G/F & 2/F TSE and Sons Bldg. 1743 A. Mabini St. Malate
Tel. Nos. 521-8992 • 521-7408 • 400-0509 • 400-0510
521-9608 • 521-7606 • 522-1360 • 525-4725 • 526-6682
Fax No.: 528-6364 • Mobile No.: (0921) 445-1778
Email: skynettravel@amadeusph.com
BOOKING OFFICES: Novaliches: 937-5648 • Cainta: 284-2097 • Bacolod: (034) 435-0769
Baguio: (074) 448-2711 • Bangued, Abra: (074) 752-5723 • Cavite: (046) 417-2707
Cebu: (032) 254-8625 • Davao: (082) 225-5927 • Dumaguete: (035) 225-6565 / 422-8418
Iloilo: (033) 335-1171 loc. 558 / 509-9454 • Leyte: (053) 331-2861 • Ozamis City: (088) 521-1555
San Fernando, La Union: (072) 888-0034
CEBU PACIFIC
BANGKOK NEW YEAR BLOCKINGS
PATHUMWAN PRINCESS 4D/3N DEC 29 - JAN 1 $315

BANGKOK 3D/2N	$145	KUALA LUMPUR 3D/2N	$280
1N HKG+1N SHZN 3D/2N	$165	SINGAPORE 3D/2N	$300
1N HKG+2N SHZN 4D/3N	$178	HKG+SHZN+SHANGHAI 6D/4N	$323
HONGKONG COMPULSORY TOUR 3D/2N	$179	HKG+SHZN+BEIJING 6D/5N	$340
2N HONGKONG+1N SHENZHEN 4D/3N	$185	SHANGHAI 4D/3N	$390
BANGKOK+PATTAYA 4D/3N	$189	BANGKOK+HKG	$393
HKG FREE AND EASY 3D/2N	$218	SIN+HONGKONG 5D/4N	$400
HKG+SHZN+MACAU 4D/3N	$238	KUALA LUMPUR+HONGKONG 5D/4N	$403
HKG+SHZN W/ OCEAN PARK 4D/3N	$233	SHZN+BEIJING+SHANGHAI+HKG 8D/7N	$474
BRUNEI 3D/2N	$275	BANGKOK+SIN+HKG 7D/6N	$518

VELLAGIO TOWER
For Elegance Comfort and Convenient Living
READY FOR OCCUPANCY NO DP for as low as P1.7M
AGENTS ARE WELCOME!
WAJ REALTY DEVELOPMENT, INC.
2011 Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila
Tel. No: 522-0278/400-8407

Sale of $3-B Hong Kong property faces collapse

HONG KONG—The fate of a US$3-billion real estate privatization scheme hung in the balance Sunday as the government tried to prevent a potentially embarrassing collapse of the world's largest property trust sale.

The launch of the planned sell-off of 180 shopping malls and 79,000 car parking spaces on public housing estates has been thrown into serious doubt by an elderly female tenant who challenged the decision in court.

Senior government officials including chief executive Tung Chee-hwa and Financial Secretary Henry Tang met for another crisis meeting Sunday morning to decide whether the listing would go ahead on Monday as planned.

But Tang said Saturday the chance of seeing the scheme going ahead was "slim" given the legal uncertainties.

Local press, citing unnamed sources, reported that the government had decided to pull out of the controversial privatization scheme due to the "high risks" involved as the prospectus of the sale did not mention possible legal challenges.

It would only go ahead if the resident promised not to take the case to the Court of Final Appeal, they said.

An announcement was originally due at 4 p.m. on Sunday but it has been pushed back due to "legal problems," a Housing Authority spokesperson said.

On Friday the city's highest court, the Court of Final Appeal, allowed 67-year-old Lo Siu-lang 28 days to lodge an appeal against lower court decisions which upheld the authority's right to privatize the assets.

The pensioner was seeking a judicial review of the listing of the so-called Link Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) claiming the deal undervalues public assets, short-changes the public and threatens to lead to rent rises for public housing tenants.

Outspoken legislator Emily Lau criticized the government's handling of the listing.

"They have known a long time ago that there has been public discontent about the sale. They should deal with this problem first but they chose to ignore people's voices," she told AFP.

Lau, head of pro-democracy group the Frontier, also blamed the lack of transparency as the root cause of the difficulties.

"The Frontier has tried to discuss with them about the plan for a long time but that was also ignored. When we did get a chance to speak to them, they did not want to disclose much information. I hope they have learned their lesson now," she said.

Andrew To, a district councilor and one of Lo's representatives, blamed what he called an undemocratic government for the hurdles.

"There has been a lot of criticism about the sale. The legislators have told the government to pull out and there have been talks about judicial review, yet they went ahead with it without public consensus," he said.

To said even scrapping the listing would cause less damage than going ahead as more lawsuits could be filed against it.

A fresh lawsuit was heard by the High Court Saturday evening as a disgruntled investor sought urgent leave to apply for a judicial review and the return of her money.

But her application was promptly rejected by the court. It ruled her case covered a private and civil matter and that she should seek compensation with the Link REIT instead. *AFP*

STILL UNANSWERED Famed aviatrix Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, pose in front of their twin-engine Lockheed Electra in Los Angeles in May 1937, prior to their attempt to fly around the world. Plans are afoot in spring 2005 to sweep the ocean floor in a 1,000-square mile swath with sonar, the latest in a string of missions, to answer what happened to Earhart and Noonan. AP

Austrians thwart bid to assassinate Nokor leader's son

SEOUL—Austrian security forces foiled an attempt to assassinate a son of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il during a European trip in November, Yonhap News reported on Sunday.

The report of the plot against Kim Jong-nam came amid persistent rumors of internal political strife in the reclusive communist state and within the nation's first family itself.

Citing a source familiar with North Korean affairs, Yonhap said the failed plot had been planned by North Koreans favoring other of Kim Jong-il's sons as his eventual successor.

"Kim ran into an attempt to assassinate him during his visit to Europe in mid-November, but the Austrian intelligence agency had received a tip in advance and protected him," the source was quoted as saying. "The attempt was made by anti-Kim (Jong-nam) groups in North Korea."

South Korea's National Intelligence Service could not confirm the report but said Seoul's government was checking it.

In November, global financial markets were swept by rumors that Kim Jong-il had been assassinated or overthrown.

At the same time, diplomats and officials were reported as saying that some of Kim's portraits had been removed from public places. The North's official KCNA news agency later denied this.

Long seen as his 62-year-old father's heir apparent, Kim Jong-nam's star is thought to have waned after he was caught trying to sneak into Japan on a false passport in 2001.

Although a thick veil conceals the doings of the North's ruling dynasty, Kim Jong-il—who succeeded his father and state founder Kim Il-sung in 1994—is believed to have had children with at least three wives.

Korea watchers say the older Kim now appears to favor Swiss-educated Kim Jong-chul, who is in his 20s.

While isolated, impoverished Pyongyang introduced market reforms in mid-2002, many of its people rely on foreign aid and energy shortages mean that its industry barely works. *Reuters*

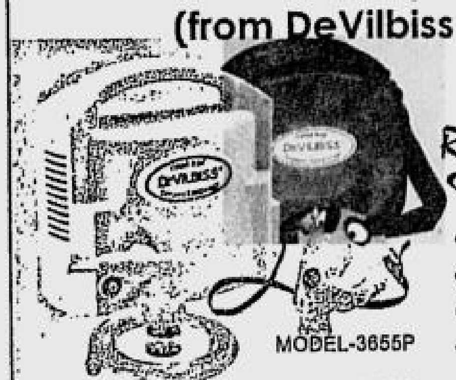
traveling in appreciation of GOD's beautiful & bountiful creations
FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL - TURKEY & GREECE
US$ 2,900 Feb. 28 Dep
Highlights: Istanbul - Adana - Antakya - Tarsus - Cappadocia - Konya - Pammukale - Ephesus - Kusadasi - Izmir - Cannakale - Kavala - Philippi - Thessaloniki - Meteora - Athens - Greek Island Cruise - Corinth - Singapore
US WEST COAST TOUR
8 Days - $1,640 11 Days - $1,892
Highlights: Los Angeles - Universal Studios - Disneyland - San Diego Seaworld - Lake Havasu - Grand Canyon - Hoover Dam - Las Vegas - Barstow - Los Angeles - Solvang - Hearst Castle - Fresno - Yosemite Park - San Francisco
SYDNEY - $569 AUCKLAND - $939
GOLDCOAST - $569 WELLINGTON - $569
4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS PACKAGES
BANGKOK - $392 SAIGON - $308
SHANGHAI - $650 SINGAPORE - $364
BEIJING - $610 KUALA LUMPUR - $303
XIAMEN - $410 GUAM - $425
PIRKKO & TROYTOURS, INC.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Travel SAFE, Travel SURE, Travel with US...
$395SAIGON
INCLUSIONS:
RT AIRFARE VIA PAL/4D/3N HOTEL ACCOM/ DAILYBREAKFAST&LUNCH/TRANSFERS AND TOURS/ ENGLISH SPEAKING GUIDE
HO CHI MINH/ CU CHI TUNNEL/ MEKONG DELTA
DEP. DATE: Dec 25-28
$699
Free Travel Insurance!!!
HURRY!!! LIMITED SEATS!!!
WINTER SKI PACKAGE
SEOUL/EVERLAND/MT SORAK/LOTTE WORLD
DEC 25-29
INCLUSIONS:
RT AIRFARE VIA PAL/HOTEL ACCOM & FULLBOARD MEALS/DAILY TOURS AND TRANSFERS/ENGLISH SPEAKING GUIDE
FARES
SEOUL $380
SFO/LAX $905
SYD/MEL $640
HONOLULU $915
NYC/CHI $800
GUAM $290
BANGKOK $196
HONGKONG $277
JAKARTA $355
SINGAPORE $267
KUALA $285
SAIGON $250
TOKYO $392
VANCOUVER $905
We are a specialist for KOREA PACKAGE TOURS
RAKSO AIR TRAVEL & TOURS INC.
G/F All Seasons Bldg., 112 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 812-9667; 840-2681; 812-9509
Fax No. 8402484; 812-8035
E-mail address: rakso@mozcom.com; ling_rakso@yahoo.com
IATA PTAA

OXY-GEN THERAPY SET
Instant relief in breathing
Your complete indoor & outdoor first aid kit
WITH OXYGEN REGULATOR, NASAL CANNULA, ADULT MASK MEDICAL OXYGEN TANK, (15lbs. CAP) COMPLETE WITH TROLLEY
MOBILE TYPE
WITH OXYGEN REGULATOR, NASAL CANNULA, MEDICAL OXYGEN TANK, (5lbs. CAP) AND 3-IN-1 STROLLER BAG
PORTABLE TYPE
save a LIFE!
Exclusively Distributed by
medical center trading corporation
Pioneer St. Cor Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Pasig City (02) 631-1715 | Manila City (02) 711-8374 | Cebu City (032) 254-2367 | Davao City (082) 222-4404
Iloilo City (033) 320-1413 | Lipa City (043) 757-2051 | Pampanga (045) 961-7892 | Pangasinan (075) 568-7390
Available in all mercury drug Stores Nationwide

Compactly Built Just For You!
NRG
ISO 9001
• 1450 PSI • 100 BAR
EUROPEAN MADE
P5,900
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
FROM THE No. 1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS
P4,900
COMMANDO 7103
Optional Accessories CART
Exclusively Distributed By
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INC.
MAIN OFFICE: 1851 M.Orosa St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY BRANCH: 646 Quezon Ave. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

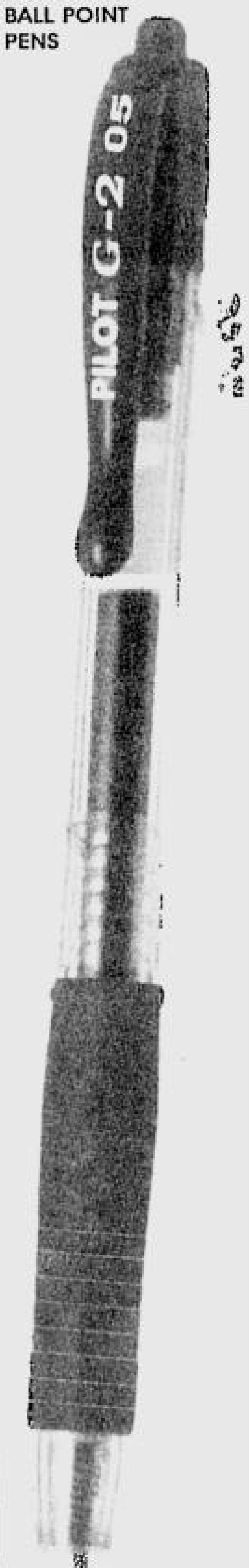
we have what you need at the price you exactly want.
think note C320
the most affordable high performance laptop that meets your computing demands.
Fast computing VIA C3 1Ghz Processor
14" XGA TFT (1024 x 768)
128MB DDR SODIMM
64MB CastleRock 3D GFX Integrated Memory
20GB Hard Disk Drive
24x CD-ROM Optical Drive
56K Modem; 10/100 LAN
4 USB 2.0 for Wide Peripheral Connections
Li-Ion Battery (approximately 2hrs)
315 (W) x 255 (D) x 35.5 (H) mm; 2.4 kg
P35,500
GO UPGRADE GO WIRELESS
• 256MB RAM
• Combo Drive (DVD+CDR-W)
FREE 802.11 WI-FI USB
Available at:
Metro Manila:
CnD (SM North EDSA) 426-5669
Hoby (U.N.) 526-5031
Infoworx (Makati) 897-5147
JAG Tech (Malate) 525-0877
Micro Pacific (Makati) 840-4787
OAL (Binondo) 309-1203
Paramount (Q.C.) 743-1135
PC Boy (Morayta) 736-2650
PC Corner (Glorietta2) 893-0630
PC Corner (Park Square1) 815-8848
PC HUB (Gilmore) 412-8482
PC Quarter (Virramall) 721-1051
PC Supplies (Parañaque) 853-4291/93
TPC (Gilmore IT Center) 726-0535
TPC (Taft-DLSU) 536-3245
Provincial:
Zamboanga: Gutz (062) 992-3184
Baguio: Speed Computer (074) 300-5456
Batangas: Windsor (043) 327-4686
Mindoro: Dig- (043) 288-5187
Cavite: IVA (046) 434-2211
Lucena: Alphanet (042) 710-8005
Bacolod: IECC (034) 434-3249
Vigan: Planet Earth (077) 722-7000
Distributed by
TQM
www.TQM.com.ph
call 526-4503
704 Pablo Ocampo St. Malate, Manila 400-2100 to 10
sales@TQM.com.ph



TRUSTED ALL OVER THE WORLD
Introducing
Pulmo-Aide Compact Compressor
(from DeVilbiss U.S.A.)
5-year warranty
Relief that Lasts!
MODEL-3655P
Accessories:
• Pediatric Aerosol Mask
• Disposable Nebulizer Kit
• Air Filter
• Carrying bag
Effective, Reliable, Affordable
for ASTHMA & Other Respiratory Disorders
Exclusively Distributed by
medical center trading corporation
Pioneer St., Cor Shaw Blvd., Pasig City Tels. 631-1715; 631-9355; 637-6504 Fax (632) 631-7859 E-mail Address medcen@info.com.ph
PASIG (02) 631-1715 | MANILA (02) 711-8374 | CEBU (032) 254-2367 | DAVAO (082) 222-4404 | ILOILO (033) 320-1413 | LIPA (043) 757-2051 | PAMPANGA (045) 961-7892 | PANGASINAN (075) 568-7390
Available in all mercury drug Stores Nationwide

Pentair Water Treatment Plymouth Products
AMETEK
BEST QUALITY, BUDGET FRIENDLY
10 YEARS WaterCare
WATER REFILLING EQUIPMENT PACKAGE
Now Available for as Low as
P198,000.00
INQUIRE NOW!
HEAD OFFICE:
WATERCARE MARKETING (PHILIPPINES)
3933 L. Roces Cor. Santol St.,
Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines 1008
Tel. # : (632) 716-0998 • 716-0860
Fax # : (632) 716-0903
E-mail : watrcare@ph.inter.net
ALSO AVAILABLE AT:
• SM Megamall, 5/F Bldg. A Tel. # 633-2510/20
• SM City Fairview, LGF Tel. # 417-6622/418-6024
• SM Southmall, UGF Tel. # 806-9393
• SM City Cebu, LGF Tel. # (032) 233-0252
• MC Home Ortigas Tel. # 638-6201
• MC Home Fort Bonifacio Tel.# 816-4270
AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR & IMPORTER OF:
Pentair Water Treatment Plymouth Product (Ametek) • Nimbus Water Systems (Reverse Osmosis) Badger Meter, Inc. • R-Can UV Sterilight • Rusco Inc. • Purolite Resin
At Your Service!
WaterCare Our name your Guarantee!
A Member of Water Quality
Free Seminar on Water Refilling Business January 15 & 29, 2005 For reservation, contact Ruth @ 716-0998
"The One Stop Shop for all your Water Treatment Needs"

TIRED OF INNEFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO HAIR LOSS?
Why go for wigs and hairpieces when you can have your lost hair restored, permanently? Nu/Hart Hair Clinics, a world leader in hair restoration, is now open in Manila, offering its proven breakthrough procedures and American medical expertise to reverse hair loss using your own natural hair.
With over 50 years of combined surgeon experience and 15 years in business, Nu/Hart has performed over 25,000 individual hair restoration procedures on clients, both male and female, from over 40 countries at its 11 offices in the U.S. and overseas.
Unlike hair pieces and wigs, Nu/Hart's hair transplant solution is:
- Permanent and growing
- Natural
- Maintenance-free
- Affordable (Easy Payment Plans)
- No monthly visits
- No ongoing expenses.
Call or visit us now for a FREE CONSULTATION.
638-6000
26/F Wynsum Plaza, 22 Emerald Ave., Ortigas (Behind Discovery Suites)
visit our website at www.nuhart.com
or email us at manila@nuhart.com
NU/HART HAIR CLINIC
There's a new you waiting at Nu/Hart.
Manila • New York • Chicago • Atlanta • Pittsburgh Philadelphia • Denver • Puerto Rico • Dubai



voted by readers SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004 Reader's Digest Philippines
SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004
SUPERBRAND HALL OF FAME
voted by readers SUPER BRAND GOLD Reader's Digest Philippines
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2003
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2002
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2001
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2000
SUPER BRAND GOLD 1999
PILOT
Smooth Advancement in writing technology
G-2
Retractable BALL POINT PENS
BL-G2-5
BL-G2-7
Philippine Exclusive Distributor:
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. PAREDES ST., BINONDO, MANILA
P.O. BOX 1601 Tels.: 243-6912 to 14 Fax: 242-56
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

Thai PM links Indonesia to southern unrest

THAKSIN speaking to the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok Dec. 16. REUTERS

BANGKOK—Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has blamed radicals in Indonesia for fomenting unrest in the kingdom's troubled south where more than 560 people have died this year, media reported Sunday.

The premier has already angered neighboring Malaysia by charging that some Islamic militants waging the insurgency were trained across the border in Malaysia.

Adding Indonesia to the list, Thaksin on Saturday said masterminds of the southern violence were being inspired by extremists there, often while studying at Islamic schools, the Nation newspaper said.

During his radio address to the nation Saturday Thaksin also said some ringleaders had received training in Indonesia.

"They got radical ideas from studying in Indonesia or from friends in Indonesia and then trained in Indonesia and Malaysia," he said.

However, Thaksin said the governments of Indonesia and Malaysia stood firmly against terrorism and had fully cooperated with Thailand in seeking to end the conflict in the kingdom's south.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Sunday reportedly denied that Thai Muslim insurgents were being trained in Malaysia and chided the Thai premier for making such "sensational" claims.

"Malaysia is not a base to be used by any group to make plans against any country. We will not allow our country to be used as a base," Abdullah was quoted as saying in Dubai by the Sunday Star newspaper.

Abdullah said he was disappointed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra did not use diplomatic channels to air his claims.

"I was shocked to read about it. If Thaksin had such information and we don't know about it, he should have passed it over to us officially through proper diplomatic channels," Abdullah said.

The Thai premier on Saturday said some of the militants had been trained in Malaysia's Kelantan state.

Kelantan is the only Malaysian state ruled by the opposition Islamic Party and shares a border with the southern provinces of mainly Buddhist Thailand.

Earlier this month a Malaysian lawmaker claimed that the outlawed Pattani United Liberation Organization, which is fighting for a separate Islamic state in southern Thailand, had received 120,000 ringgit ($31,500) from the Kelantan state branch of the Malaysian Islamic Welfare Organization.

Muslims represent about 5 percent of the overwhelmingly Buddhist population of Thailand but have long complained of discrimination.

Thailand's sporadic separatist insurgency was rekindled at the start of the year and since then Buddhists, officials and security forces have been targeted by militants.

Thai security sources have warned Islamic militants are planning major attacks in Bangkok and southern Thai provinces in January to mark the first anniversary of the insurgency. *AFP*

Thai MP faces prison term for airing riot video

BANGKOK—A Thai opposition parliamentarian could face up to seven years in prison for airing a video showing security forces suppressing a riot which led to the deaths of 87 Muslim protesters, police said Sunday.

Democrat MP Thanin Jaisamut has been called in for questioning and will be arrested if he denies showing the video of the Tak Bai tragedy while campaigning in the restive south this month, said police in the southern district of Langu.

"The video is a violation of national security," Langu police chief Chote Chaichompoo told AFP, adding Thanin could spend up to seven years in jail if charged and convicted of the crime of "violating national security."

Thai authorities have urged opposition politicians to stop publicizing videos showing security forces suppressing a riot at Tak Bai near the border with Malaysia, saying the images damaged national unity.

The Oct. 25 Tak Bai riot led to the deaths of at least 87 Muslim protesters, most of whom died from suffocation after being detained, bound and piled into the backs of army trucks. The tragedy sparked an international outcry.

Video from the riot in the Muslim-dominated southern province of Narathiwat emerged on the open market recently. Officials have reportedly accused politicians of doctoring the footage to tarnish the government's reputation before national elections next Feb. 6.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has slammed the video saying its distribution could lead to further division within the kingdom, which is mainly Buddhist. *AFP*

Couple showed off baby cut from mother's womb

MELVERN, Kansas—A woman charged with killing an expectant mother and cutting the baby from her womb was showing the child off to people at a cafe and to her pastor hours before she was arrested, residents said Saturday.

Lisa M. Montgomery, 36, was charged Friday with kidnapping resulting in murder and was expected to appear in federal court Monday. The baby, whose mother had been eight months pregnant, was in good condition.

Hours before her arrest, Montgomery and her husband showed off a newborn girl at a restaurant, said Kathy Sage, owner of the Whistle Stop Cafe in Melvern, a small eastern Kansas town.

Many customers were surprised to hear the infant was only a day old, Sage said. She knew a special alert had been issued for a baby missing from Missouri but did not realize the infant the Montgomerys carried was connected until hearing from a reporter on Friday.

"You read about this stuff," she said. "It blows you away when it's here. This stuff is supposed to be in New York City or Los Angeles."

Montgomery was arrested later in the death of Bobbie Jo Stinnett, who was found Thursday in a pool of blood inside her small white home in the northwest Missouri town of Skidmore.

Montgomery's husband, Kevin, has not been charged in the case.

The arrest stunned many in this community of about 420 residents who apparently had believed for months that Lisa Montgomery was pregnant.

While the Montgomerys ate breakfast Friday, another customer showed the baby off around the cafe. After eating, they took the girl to visit their pastor.

"It was a beautiful baby," Mike Wheatly said. "Absolutely beautiful."

Wheatly and his wife commented that the baby, whom the couple called Abigail, did not look like a newborn because her head was not misshapen from passing through the birth canal, a common result of childbirth that soon goes away. The only marks she had were a small scratch on her head and a slight bruise on her hand. *AP*

GLOBAL QUALITY PROJECT
EXPERIENCE DRIVING PERFECTION.
TEST DRIVE THE NEW TOYOTA HILUX AT YOUR NEAREST TOYOTA DEALER TODAY!
3 YEAR WARRANTY 100,000 KM

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500
TOYOTA DEALER NETWORK: TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1991 **TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY**, Gardenville Su
(074) 443-6778 **TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC.**, EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalookan City 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to
TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City (043) 723-7386 / (043) 723-7639 **TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC.** Km. 118 Maha
(088) 858-9994 / (088) 858-7770 (08822) 737-480 **TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC.**, 34 M.J. Cuenco St., Cebu City (032) 253-1161 **TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE**, Tabok, M
TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2026 to 28 (075) 522-6771 / 6734/ 4773 **TOYOTA DASMA**
(082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-8640 **TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC.**, Gran Plains Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City (033) 320-6115 to 19 **TOYOTA MAKATI INC.**, Ayala cor. M
TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, Brgy. Sto. Niño,Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 682-9701 to 03 **TOYOTA OTIS, INC.**, 1770 Paz M.
Quezon City 712-5001 to 06 **TOYOTA SAN FERNANDO**, Olongapo-Gapan Road, San Fernando, Pampanga (045) 961-1188 **TOYOTA SHAW, INC.**, 309 Sha
www.toyota.com.ph

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Ex-dictator Pinochet suffers stroke

HET in a Sept. 11, 1997 photo. AP

SANTIAGO—Former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet suffered a stroke and was hospitalized Saturday, just two days before an appeals court ruling on whether to uphold his indictment and arrest for crimes committed during his 17-year rule.

Pinochet suffered a stroke "with loss of consciousness," Lionel Gomez Serey, the medical director of the Military Hospital of Santiago, said in a statement.

Pinochet, 89, has a history of health problems that include diabetes and several minor strokes.

Earlier, a source at the Pinochet Foundation said Pinochet was feeling ill and his doctor "took him to the hospital for an examination as a precautionary measure. That is all," said retired Gen. Guillermo Garin.

Garin, a loyal Pinochet supporter, denied any connection between the hospital visit and Pinochet's legal troubles.

Judge Juan Guzman Tapia has ordered the arrest of Pinochet—who ruled Chile from 1973 to 1990—for his role in Operation Condor, an alliance of 1970s-era South American dictatorships to eliminate opponents.

The Santiago Court of Appeals said it would decide Monday on a defense petition to drop the charges, based on a July 2002 Supreme Court finding that Pinochet suffered from mild dementia and was unable to stand trial.

The case could put Pinochet in the dock for the first time for human rights abuses conducted during his 17-year rule, a prospect long awaited by many who claim to have suffered under his strong-arm tactics.

The youngest of Pinochet's five children, Marco Antonio, told reporters that he wants the judge to go to the hospital "to confirm how bad" his father is doing.

Guzman Tapia "believes this is a show," he said, adding that his father's stroke "was stronger than the last ones due to the stress that he has been suffering."

Guzman Tapia argues that new information has emerged since the 2002 Supreme Court finding of Pinochet's "mild dementia" that prevented him from facing trial in an earlier case.

In November 2003, Pinochet showed no hint of dementia when interviewed by a Miami television station, even joking and describing himself as feeling like "an angel."

Pinochet delivered clear and coherent answers on economic, political and social issues during the interview, Guzman Tapia said.

And in August 2004 Pinochet gave detailed answers to another judge investigating his secret bank accounts holding up to $15 million at Riggs Bank in Washington.

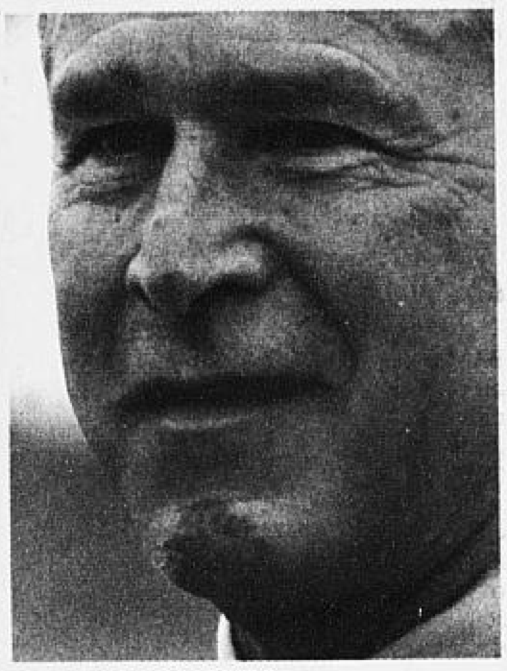
US Senate investigators uncovered the accounts in June. Chile's tax service and the State Defense Council have opened corruption investigations.

Chilean lawyers said finding Pinochet fit to stand trial opens the door to bringing charges in a multitude of cases, such as the September 1974 car-bomb murder of Gen. Carlos Prats in Buenos Aires.

The former head of Chile's army had abandoned the country rather that participate in a military government.

In September 1973 Pinochet, head of Chile's military, joined a bloody military coup that toppled elected Socialist president Salvador Allende. The following year Pinochet imposed one-man rule and governed by decree.

Some 3,000 political opponents were killed during the dictatorship, according to an official toll. *AFP*



YEAR 2004 PHOTO REUTERS

US President George W. Bush displays minor abrasions in this May 23, 2004 photo after falling off a mountain bike while cycling on his Texas ranch.

Mystery donor gives gold coins to Salvation Army

PEORIA, Ill.—Salvation Army officials don't know who has been dropping gold coins into their holiday kettles over the past 20 years, but they hope the mysterious donations continue.

More than 300 gold coins have been collected since the early 1980s, with an average value of about $200 (euro151) each, said Cliff Marshall, spokesperson for the charity in Chicago, where the tradition began.

Chicago bell-ringers have brought in 10 gold coins so far this year. They aren't the only ones.

In Kirksville, Missouri, someone donated a gold coin that was minted 20 years before the Civil War, worth nearly $1,000 (euro754). A South African Krugerrand worth $400 (euro302) was dropped in a kettle in Bloomington, Illinois, meaning 12 extra families will get a complete Christmas dinner.

But officials still don't know where the coins come from.

The mysterious tradition began in 1982, when someone slipped a gold coin into a kettle in the Chicago suburb of Crystal Lake. The donations have occurred there ever since and have spread across Illinois and about a dozen other states.

The phantom donors almost always conceal the coins, usually folding dollar bills around them. They range from small gold pieces worth about $15 (euro11.31) to Krugerrands that can fetch $600 (euro452.35) from collectors.

The gold coins have been worth a total of about $60,000 (euro45,235). That's just a fraction of the $3.5 million (euro2.64 million) collected by the Salvation Army last year in Chicago. *AP*

US to post military officers to Taiwan

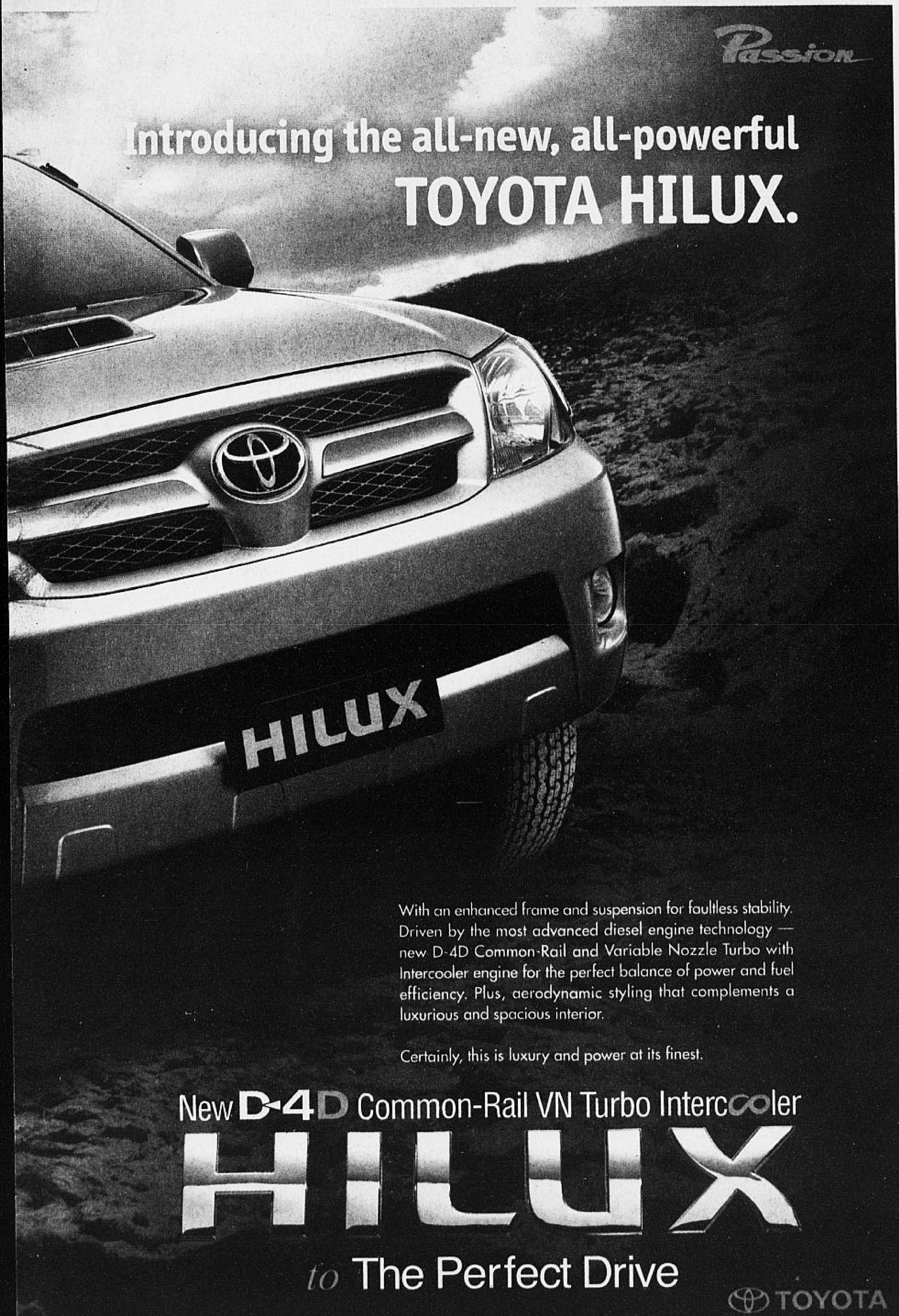
TAIPEI—In a reversal of its long-standing policy, the United States will post military officers to its mission in Taipei for the first time since 1979, leading defense journal Jane's Defense Weekly said.

The move is expected to rile rival China as it would mark closer military ties between Washington and the island which Beijing claims as part of its territory.

From the middle of 2005 active duty military personnel will replace civilian contractors at Washington's effective diplomatic mission in Taipei, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), the weekly said in an article to be published on Wednesday.

US Army Col. Al Wilner, a former helicopter pilot, will be the first to arrive, Jane's Taipei correspondent Wendell Minnick told AFP Sunday.

The move marks a crucial reversal of the US defense department's long-standing policy of not assigning military officers to the island, the weekly said. *AFP*



Passion

Introducing the all-new, all-powerful
TOYOTA HILUX.

With an enhanced frame and suspension for faultless stability. Driven by the most advanced diesel engine technology — new D-4D Common-Rail and Variable Nozzle Turbo with Intercooler engine for the perfect balance of power and fuel efficiency. Plus, aerodynamic styling that complements a luxurious and spacious interior.

Certainly, this is luxury and power at its finest.

New D-4D Common-Rail VN Turbo Intercooler
HILUX
to The Perfect Drive

TOYOTA

bdivision, Araneta St., Bacolod City (034) 444-1811 to 13 **TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY**, Bokawkan Road cor. Aguila St., Baguio City (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 /
75 **TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH**, 1010 Epifanio De Los Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69
tika Highway, Daang Sarile, Cabanatuan City (044) 463-8481 to 87 **TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC.**, Km. 3 National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 /
andaue City (032) 345-8670 **TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH**, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 **TOYOTA CUBAO, INC.**, 926 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0651 to 63
RIÑAS CAVITE, Salitran II, Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite (046) 850-2597 / (02) 529-8115 (trunk line) **TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC.**, Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-0998 /
tropolitan Avenues, Makati City 897-3333 **TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP.**, Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437
uazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 **TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC.**, 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084 **TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC.**, 728 Quezon Avenue,
w Blvd., Mandaluyong City 532-4132 / 532-8428 / 534-3009 (telefax) **TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS**, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-9854 to 64 / 671-0460

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 20 No. 12
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
• Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
• 100% soy ink •

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • Chief, News Day Desk NILO B. PAUROM
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
City Editor GERRY LIRIO
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services DAVID O. VALDES
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Bias

EDITORIAL

PERCEPTIONS have their own reality. This is what we must remember when we take the measure of a Filipino icon like Fernando Poe Jr. It is also what we must keep in mind when we seek to understand his widow's angry and startling accusations of media bias.

The redoubtable Susan Roces did not mince words when she berated the ABS-CBN network for alleged bias in its news coverage. *"Hindi ko kikimkimin ang sama ng loob ko* (I will not suppress my hurt feelings)," she said. "People don't want to watch your news coverage because you capitalize on personal hurt," she told Karen Davila, the new anchor of "TV Patrol World."

In such cases involving personal hurt, perceptions harden almost into religious truths. For those who share them, no explanation is necessary; for those who don't, no explanation is possible.

To be sure, Roces did offer an explanation (echoed the next day by opposition leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.). She complained about ABS-CBN's use of "tight shots" during the campaign, which tended to minimize or ignore the size of FPJ's adoring crowds. "You did not show the crowd, you weren't showing the people," she said.

This is a serious accusation, made more so by its specificity. But Roces' outburst was not the first time it was raised. In truth, almost every media organization received this kind of complaint from the Poe camp once the campaign started. It would not be unfair to Poe's media handlers to state bluntly that, instead of yet more questions about Poe's lack of a platform leading the news stories, they would have preferred photos or footage of the day's crowds.

Certainly, if what Roces meant was that ABS-CBN did not give the Poe presidential campaign the Erap treatment, she would be completely in the right. The television network that has helped elect several senators and at least one vice president did not cover Poe this year the way it covered his bosom buddy Joseph Estrada from the 1998 election right up to the deposed president's impeachment trial in 2000.

This makes ABS-CBN a victim of its own past practices.

But there were in fact many times during this year's campaign that the network was thought to be biased *for* FPJ.

Let us cite only one instance. The first major crisis the Poe campaign confronted was the series of disqualification cases filed against the candidate; any propaganda value from the cases, however, was quickly countered by an even more sensational allegation: that the incriminating documents against Poe were reportedly forged by a group under the direction of Ricardo Manapat, the director of the National Archives then.

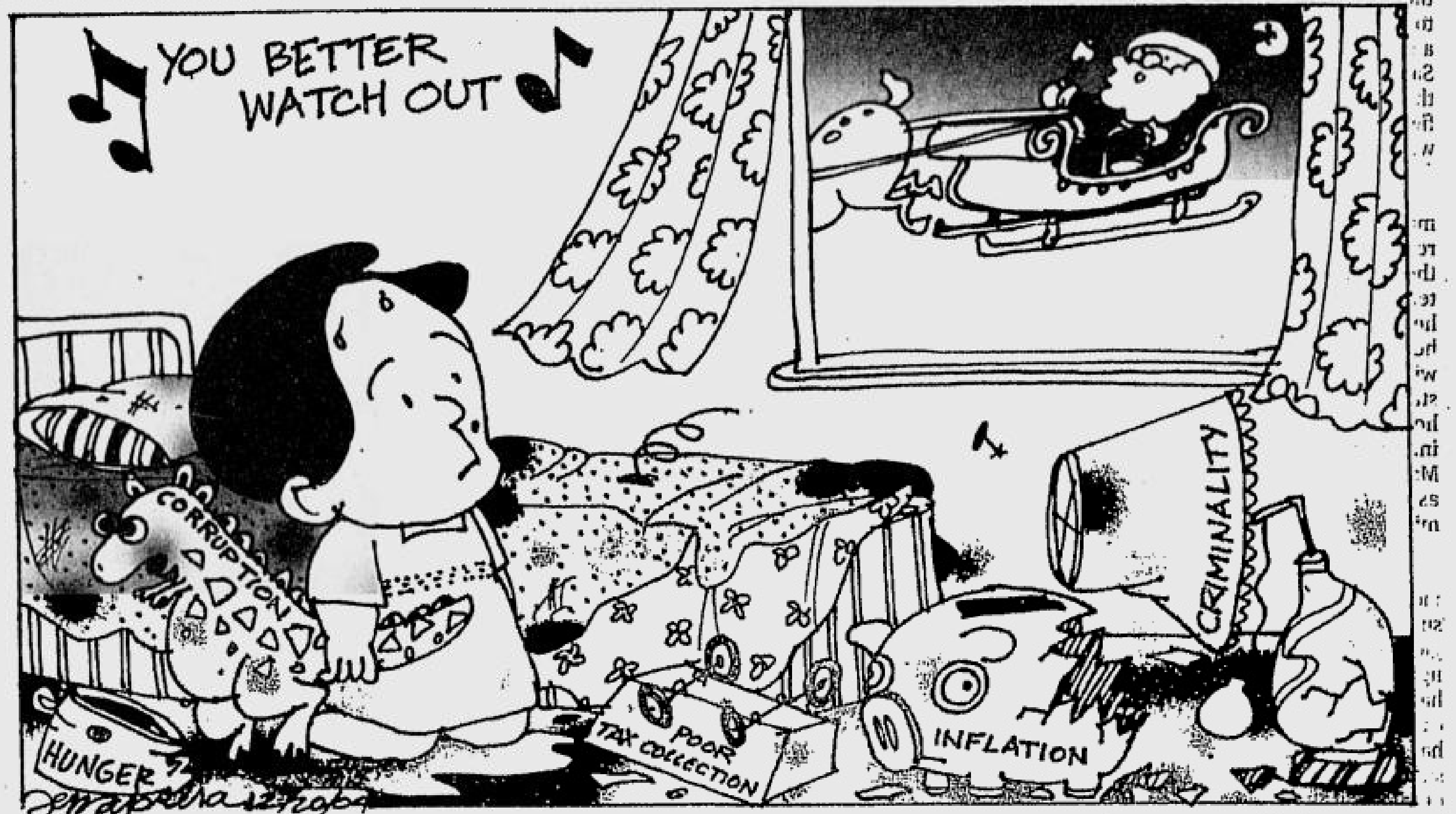
In the Senate hearings conducted and then hurriedly concluded by Poe supporter Sen. Edgardo Angara, employees of the National Archives emerged to serve as hostile witnesses to Manapat.

ABS-CBN was not remiss in its coverage of both the scandal and the hearings. More to the point, it did not fail to run favorable stories about the witnesses. The preferential treatment reached its height when a network reporter followed three witnesses, then under Senate custody, on their triumphant if temporary return to the National Archives. The three were feted at every turn, receiving encouragement from what seemed like the entire agency, from the moment they arrived to the time they left. But why did the witnesses return that particular day? The real answer became clear only at the very end of the report, when the witnesses, waiting at the building's driveway, filed back into an ABS-CBN service vehicle.

A careful viewer would have reached only one conclusion: The witnesses had been brought back to their office, and were now being returned to the Senate, by the network itself, for the sake of the story.

But judging from Roces' remarks last week, this instance of anti-Manapat (and thus pro-Poe) coverage is not something Poe's supporters appreciate, or even remember.

And thus we come to the blind side of perceptual thinking: we only see what we want or are conditioned to see. We do not remember our neighbor's hundred acts of kindness; we only notice the one unfortunate exchange of words. We do not notice the thousands of policemen doing their duty; we only see the cops who take bribes. That, sadly, is the reality.



People's hope may have died with FPJ

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LIKE Macbeth who was terrified by the ghost of Banquo, the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo is terrified by the dead Fernando Poe Jr. So terrified that it is contradicting itself by dangling so many *consuelos de bobo* to appease his grieving, angry family and supporters. First, it offered to make Poe a National Artist for the movies. Then it offered to bury him in the Libingan ng mga Bayani, which is reserved only for national heroes. When the offers were not accepted, it proposed flying the Philippine flag at half-mast, and when told that this cannot be done legally, it proposed giving Poe a Presidential Medal of Merit to make it legal.

The administration is contradicting itself. The National Artist award is limited only to true-blue Filipinos, that is why the award is called "National." Likewise, the Libingan ng mga Bayani is reserved only for Filipino heroes. But has the administration forgotten that it claims FPJ is not a Filipino?

That was its argument in the disqualification case against FPJ, and that was also its argument against FPJ's poll protest in the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.'

Which leads us to repeat the question of FPJ's widow, Susan Roces: What happened to the bureau director who falsified FPJ's birth papers to make it appear that he was not a Filipino? The fellow has been charged with perjury and falsification of public documents a long time ago, but what happened to these cases? Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño says he doesn't have them, and nobody else in the Department of Justice knows where they are. The accused himself cannot be located. Is it any wonder that Susan is angry?

An indication of the anger of FPJ's fans is when they tore to pieces the wreaths sent by the President and by Speaker Jose de Venecia to Sto. Domingo Church. The President has also sent feelers to the family that she would like to pay her last respects to her fallen presidential rival, but they were rebuffed. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye was earlier sent to the Arlington funeral parlor in Pasig to feel the pulse of the family and crowd, and he was disappointed. I felt so sorry for him as I watched him on television bravely walking through the hostile crowd, face set in a grim smile, knowing he was in enemy territory.

Everybody expects emotions and tempers to flare up during the funeral on Dec. 22. The parallelism between the assassination of Ninoy Aquino and the sudden death of Poe is not lost on the administration. It was the death of Ninoy that sparked Edsa I, that led to the people chasing the Marcoses out of Malacañang. It is possible that FPJ's funeral, if not handled right, could lead to the same end. Maybe not immediately, but it could fuel a smoldering anger that could explode like a volcano in a popular uprising later against the already very unpopular President Arroyo.

The parallelism does not end there. Although not yet proven, the people suspected that the Marcos administration was behind Ninoy's assassination. This time, people believe that FPJ was cheated out of the presidency, although that still has to be proven in the PET.

Indeed, judging from the millions of people flocking to FPJ's wake, and the national outpouring of grief and sorrow at his sudden death, one wonders how he could have lost the elections. The antics of the pro-administration members of Congress blocking all attempts to look deeper into the certificates of canvass, and the extreme slowness of the PET in acting on FPJ's electoral protest, only strengthened the belief that he was cheated.

Pour one hurt after another on an already suffering people and it is like playing with fire beside a pile of dynamite sticks.

It is said that the Filipinos are a patient people. Because they always cling to hope—even the poorest of the poor and the desperate among them—to pull them through. FPJ was a beacon of hope. Just as he was hope personified in the movies where he was the hero who always came to the rescue and triumphed in the end against villains. And he was a hero to them not only in the movies but also in real life. With his death, the people's hope of deliverance from oppression, injustice and poverty also died. Without hope, people resort to reckless and dangerous means, like the amoks who try to take with them to hell as many of their perceived tormentors as they can.

All these cannot be lost on the administration. I am sure they are discussing this in Malacañang. Which explains all the efforts at appeasement.

The FPJ crowds know the government is trying to appease them but they are not biting. Appeasement is not the same as sincerity. In the same way that a sinner cannot be forgiven unless he confesses his sins and sincerely repents. A prisoner cannot be given amnesty unless he admits his crime. People want sincerity from the administration.

* * *

If you still have not finished your Christmas shopping, here is a fast and easy way to do it. You still have a few days to do it.

Give the "gift of life" to your friends by donating, in their names, to the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). By donating a minimum of P100 to PAWS, it will send a "Gift of Life" card to your friend announcing that you have donated, in his name, that amount to care for abandoned dogs, cats, and other animals, which will be kept in animal shelters. You can visit PAWS' Animal Rehabilitation Center (PARC) on Aurora Blvd., Katipunan Valley, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, at the foot of the flyover going to Marikina.

For inquiries on this unique Christmas gift, you can call PARC at 475-1688.

Susan for president

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SUSAN Roces gave out two interviews last week that showed a contrast in moods. Both made me wonder what madness persuaded Fernando Poe Jr.'s handlers to take the tack they did during the campaign—keeping him and his wife away from the more serious public forums. I don't know how articulate FPJ is, but Susan Roces is obviously so.

Her interviews during the past week should also dispel the wrongheaded notion that Tagalog is inadequate to express thoughts and feelings. There are no inadequate languages, there are only inadequate speakers. Roces rose to heights of eloquence completely effortlessly during her interviews talking in Tagalog. What is eloquence anyway but speaking from the heart?

In the first interview, Roces was gracious in the extreme.

Yes, she said, she was still going to find joy this Christmas. That is how it has always been with her. She came from a poor family and learned early in life to make the best of what she had. When they were kids, every time someone in her family had a birthday and they didn't have money, they just bought a piece of cake. But they made sure to put a candle on it. Yes, she'll still celebrate Christmas. Her husband won't be there physically, but he'll still be there in spirit. She'll make the best of what she has.

FPJ, she said, never misrepresented himself when he ran for president. He never passed himself off as someone other than what he was. He was a school dropout who rose to the top of his profession through talent and hard work. He was a man with a good heart who had helped others before and wanted to help more. Better someone like that than people who used their heads only to oppress others.

She thought the crowd that tore to shreds the wreath sent by President Macapagal-Arroyo were wrong to do so. But she had no dominion over people's hearts. Her husband himself had been much affected by what happened in the elections. Someone is robbed of his money, he can always make it another day. Someone is robbed of his dreams, he is robbed of his life.

In the second interview, Roces was furious in the extreme. Probably out of tiredness, probably out of seeing all the people who had wronged them during the elections simulating commiseration, she lashed out. Particularly at the one TV station she believed had wronged them the most. She did not mince her words, reducing Karen Davila to tears. The reason people are not watching ABS-CBN news, she told Davila, was not only that it aired late but that it was false. Among others, it falsified the attendance in FPJ's campaign. "Why did you say nobody went to his rallies when you could see for yourself the crowds that pushed their way there?"

Roces said a good deal more, but it is by now widely known. It was shown in several networks that night—among them ABS-CBN—and was the headline of newspapers next day. She ended on a conciliatory note, however, saying if God could forgive, who was she not to?

Well, I myself was wondering how long it would take before she snapped at the sight of all the media that had slammed the door on her husband while he was alive and seeking to become a tenant of Malacañang; but were now pushing and shoving to get ahead of the line while her husband waited to occupy the cold earth. More than the elections, this was a test of epic proportions, and FPJ's widow passed it with flying colors. The colors of grief and anger. Whether contemplative or explosive, she looked eminently presidential.

That is so particularly if we define "presidential" by the one characteristic that should attend it but has been stripped from it these past years: honesty. Honesty is the one thing that has been defiled horrendously in this country, lying becoming a hallmark of presidential ambition, deception becoming the handmaiden of presidential conduct. Honesty is the one thing that has been cheapened violently in this country, pundits applauding demonstrations of unscrupulousness, calling it the height of political savvy, and self-proclaimed "empower-ers" of the people choosing to play the roles of blind court monkeys.

What made Roces look spectacularly presidential was just that: she was honest. A monumental irony for the fact that she is an actor, as was her husband. She and her husband had played many roles in their lives, but as it turned out, they had not forgotten to play themselves. She and her husband had played the role of *bidas* in their movies, but as it turned out they had never advertised themselves as such in real life. The day before Roces lambasted ABS-CBN, I saw Aladin Bacolodan touring FPJ's house and standing on a pile of relief goods that FPJ had been gathering to give to the typhoon victims. None of the goods carried his name. It was never his habit to do that, Bacolodan said. FPJ preferred to remain nameless when he gave.

These are gracious folk in these ungracious times. These are honest folk in these dishonest times. I don't know that honesty alone makes for a great president, but I do know it is the precondition for being one. Honesty in a president is the only assurance the citizen has he's not getting a raw deal, whether he agrees with her or not. No, it is his only assurance he has a president, and not a non-actor who's just playing the part.

What can I say? Susan for president.

* * *

Our concert for the typhoon victims is tonight at Conspiracy Café in Visayas Avenue. As of this writing, the artists are: Dong Abay, Cynthia Alexander, Johnny Alegre, Noli Aurillo, Joey Ayala, Bayang Barrios, Noel Cabangon, Cooky Chua, Mon David, Susan Fernandez, Gary Granada, Paolo Santos, Pido, Ria Villena, Chikoy Pura, Tots Tolentino. More will jam.

Give to the afflicted. You won't just be richer in spirit, you'll be richer in song.

Legacy from KC's tragic death

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHEN the residence of Speaker Jose de Venecia in Dasmariñas Village burned down, trapping his youngest daughter KC inside the house, some 20 members of the House of Representatives rushed there upon hearing the news. One of the earliest to arrive was Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri. I had a chance to chat with him at the wake for KC in Santuario de San Antonio. Zubiri reiterated what the Speaker had stressed to the media: The firefighting units that responded to the emergency were woefully inadequate in terms of equipment.

* * *

JDV had stressed that Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay was so helpful to them in trying to rescue KC. Binay joined the De Venecias in those desperate moments as they tried to enter the burning house, braving the extreme heat and fumes. But they had to retreat as the heat proved unbearable. JDV tried a third time with the firemen, but again he was unable to stand the heat; by that time the ceiling of the house and the wooden second floor had caved in. Later JDV mused to the media that if the Makati Fire Department had only one or two asbestos suits for the firemen, his daughter might have been saved.

* * *

Zubiri noted that the MFD, supposedly the most modern in the country, doesn't have even a single asbestos suit; it has no gas masks (only surgical masks), no iron grill cutters and no floodlights and flashlights even. In fact, the firemen had to borrow floodlights from a TV crew. Because of inadequate equipment, the firefighters had to seek entrance to the house from the grand staircase which was engulfed in flames, instead of cutting through the grills at the side of the room where the girl was. JDV also observed that the fire trucks would run out of water and then wait for those that had water. At that instant, he mused, every moment counted in saving his daughter's life.

* * *

The report of such inadequacy is simply appalling, for if this is the case with the firefighters of Makati, the richest city in the country, one can imagine how the other fire teams in other places are. Brother Eddie Villanueva, who came to pray over the De Venecia couple and the remains of their child, recalled how thousands of people in a Bulacan municipality watched helplessly as six children burned inside a house because the firemen couldn't get through the grilled windows. But Makati, where the biggest taxpayers are located, has no excuse in not having the latest fire-fighting equipment and technology. Let's hope Mayor Binay would fit his firefighters with first-class and ultramodern equipment, so that Makati's fire team could also help nearby towns and cities that cannot afford them.

* * *

Tragedy that befell JDV's daughter and his residence has highlighted the need for more modern fire-fighting equipment, the Speaker told the media through his grief. Inasmuch as the fire in his residence was said to have originated from overheated Christmas tree lights, JDV also sent a message to the nation's families to observe an accident-free holiday season by using Christmas lights in a safer manner. He said that he intends to allocate about P15 million in the newly approved budget to equip at least each city a couple of asbestos suits. The House members who witnessed the tragedy in Dasmariñas Village last Thursday night urged the Speaker to make the modernization of our fire-fighting equipment KC's legacy.

* * *

The tragedy that befell JDV's family drew sympathy from various leaders of the country who cast aside political and ideological lines to condole with them. These included President Macapagal-Arroyo, Vice President Noli de Castro and Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senators Nene Pimentel, Loi and Jinggoy Estrada and Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, as well as NDF Chief Jose Ma. Sison and former MNLF Chief Nur Misuari. Erap also called his former rival. Messages of sympathy also poured from abroad—from Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart (whom JDV openly endorsed in Beijing in the race for UN secretary general in 2006, foregoing his own ambition to run for that esteemed post); Cambodian Senate President Norodom Ranariddh; outgoing Indonesian Speaker Akbar Tanjung and incoming Speaker Agong Laksono; Chinese Speaker Wuo Bangguo and Chinese Foreign Minister Li; Singapore PM Lee and his powerful wife, Madame Ho Ching; and Pakistani Speaker Chaudhry Amir Hussain.

On the other hand, the classmates of KC at Colegio San Agustin and International School gathered old photos of KC and put up an instant memorabilia at the Santuario de San Antonio, where they also sang at the Masses. Rep. Lorna Silverio and Lorna Laurel, wife of former Sen. Teroy Laurel, both came with old paintings of KC that they had bought at KC's one-girl painting exhibit eight years ago. KC's mom, Gina, is trying to buy some of those paintings back. This columnist found Gina yesterday morning sorting out some photos of KC that were salvaged from the fire.

* * *

Showing resiliency, JDV, during the wake, pointed out that what he was wearing that evening were all donations, as he lost everything in that fire. He said his shoes were from Rep. Roquito Ablan, his pants from Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin (who also donated many disposable briefs to JDV); his polo *barong* was retrieved from his old closet in his Pangasinan residence, while his son Joey Jr. donated pajamas. Hearing JDV's story, Sanlakas Rep. JV Bautista quipped that the Speaker is the original recipient of relief goods from Congress. *Pwede pa ba kaming magdonate* (Can we give you more donations)? Bautista queried, and JDV replied, "*Pagbinigyan mo ako ng briefs, tatanggapin ko* (If those are briefs, I'll accept)."

'Novedades'

COMMENTARY

Mia Corazon A. Aureus
Institute on Church and Social Issues

"*NOVEDADES con gran paella!*" kept ringing in my ear for the last couple of days. As early as November, our Spanish professor at Instituto Cervantes had been telling our class about the school's Christmas celebration on Dec. 4. He invited us all to attend. And his big come-on was the great pan of paella which everyone could eat during a *salo-salo* before the school closed for the holiday season.

Dec. 4, however, came and no paella was cooked. There wasn't much celebration either. Except for the lovely Christmas tree by the stairs and the Nativity figurines standing meekly next to it, telling me "it's Christmas!" the day still went by without that certain Christmassy feeling. Classes went on as usual, uninterrupted. Many students I guess, were surprised when they found out that the activity had been cancelled. I overheard one girl in the corridor saying that she had looked forward to the festivity and had even invited her friends over to eat and when they got there and found nothing, she had to usher them out again.

My professor said that the administration had decided to use the money for the great paella to help the victims of the recent catastrophe instead.

It was the first of a number of Christmas parties marked in my calendar to be cancelled.

The following week, I received news that Christmas parties of NGOs and other institutions at the Social Development Complex in Ateneo had also been cancelled or, if not, made simpler by using a portion of their party budget to give donations to the families in Quezon, Nueva Ecija and Montalban.

Our organization joined this act of solidarity. Instead of going to Corregidor for our combined Christmas party and 20th anniversary celebration, we decided to just hold a simple gathering at our conference room so we could give more of the budget as donations to families in storm-ravaged Quezon. Aside from that, the maximum amount for the exchange gifts was reduced from P300 to P200, with the P100 added instead to the donation fund.

The University of Santo Tomas followed. A few nights ago, when my sister came home, I could see disappointment written on her face. She told me there wouldn't be any fireworks for the "Paskuhan" this year. My sister and I have always loved this grand fireworks display which opens the university-wide Christmas celebration. Our necks would ache after looking up for 5 to 10 minutes, marveling at the bright colors decorating the dark, velvet sky.

But not even a flare was seen on "Paskuhan" night this Christmas season. The budget for fireworks this year was instead used to buy relief goods for victim families. Thinking of how much these fireworks cost these days, I'd say a lot of families really benefited from this donation.

This Christmas has been stripped of its red ribbons, candy canes, decorative angels, silver bells and other things that generally give a festive atmosphere to the season. I guess the strong winds blew them all away or the flood currents caused by the four typhoons carried them away along with the rusty roofs of humble homes.

For the past few weeks, I have leafed through the newspapers, read reports about the storm's aftermath and looked at the pictures that accompanied these stories. After so many tragedies and catastrophes in this country which have claimed thousands of lives, one would think he/she would get used to seeing death. But I guess that will only happen on the day one stops being human. So as I beheld these visions of people weeping over the loved ones they lost in the heavy rains, of kids shivering in the cold, their thin, wet garments plastered to their skinny bodies, and of homes wrecked and submerged in floodwaters, I shivered, felt scared and sorry for the grief that struck the nation.

But recently, as I went over the papers again, the pictures have changed. Yes, they are still grieving. They are still, homeless, cold and hungry. But one marked difference was that they were smiling. The snapshot captured the flicker of hope in their eyes as they stretched out their arms and reached for the bags of relief goods. (So even in black and white, I have to say the snapshot is a Kodak moment.)

Thinking about giving up those fancy Christmas parties, it dawned on me that it meant fewer gifts under the Christmas tree or simpler food on the table for *Noche Buena*. But then again it also meant sharing the feast and gifts with those who have nothing. Instead of just letting a small group share on that big pan of paella, I would like to believe that the whole country's poor community affected by the storm is now taking part in a grander *salo-salo*.

I would also like to think that when the storm blew away those red ribbons and tinsel, all it really took away were the distractions. Now stripped bare and naked, we see this Christmas celebrated for what it is really all about: sincere love.

Presidential Medal of Merit

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

WHAT is the Presidential Medal of Merit? It is one of the national honors awarded in the form of orders and decorations by the Philippine President, Congress or government. These orders and decorations are: the Quezon Service Cross, conferred by the President of the Philippines with the authorization of Congress; the Order of Lakandula, for political and civic merit; the Order of Sikatuna, for diplomatic merit; the Philippine Legion of Honor, for military and defense merit, as well as political and civic merit not requiring congressional authorization; the Order of Gabriela Silang, for the spouses of heads of state; and the Order of National Artists, the Order of National Scientists, and the Order of National Social Scientists, for those who have been proclaimed as such; the Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan for those honored as national living treasures by the the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (The awards for National Artists, Scientists, and Social Scientists and Manlilikha ng Bayan are of equal rank and prestige); the Gawad Mabini for Filipino diplomats; the Order of the Golden Heart, for those who have helped improve the life of the masses; and the Presidential Medal of Merit.

The criteria and various details concerning these national orders and decorations are incorporated in Executive Order No. 236, the Honors Code of the Philippines, signed Sept. 19, 2003. The implementing rules and regulations for the Honors Code are contained in Memorandum Order No. 128, which was signed Dec. 23, 2003. An administrative order mandates the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as the official manufacturer of orders and decorations. The NCCA, the National Historical Institute, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of National Defense, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Science and Technology, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, and the Philippine Coast Guard were all involved in the drafting of the EO.

Section 5, subsection VII of the Honors Code describes the criteria for the Presidential Medal of Merit (also referred to Pampanguluhang Medalya ng Merito) as follows:

"The Presidential Merit Award is hereby renamed the Presidential Medal of Merit.

"The Presidential Medal of Merit shall be conferred upon an individual, Filipino or foreign:

"a. for outstanding service to the President, the Administration or Cabinet members;

"b. for gaining prestige for the country in an international event, in the fields of literature, the sciences, the arts, entertainment, and other civilian fields of endeavor that foster national pride and artistic excellence;

"c. who is a retiring cultural worker or artist, after serving the government in an official or advisory capacity, or a foreign artist who has promoted Philippine culture; or

"d. for acts of merit that enhance the prestige of the Republic of the Philippines, including heading the Philippine delegation or having contributed materially to the success of a major international conference or event that has brought prestige and honor to the country, including Presidential visits overseas and major international events held in the Philippines."

The Presidential Medal of Merit was known as such until after martial law, when a general decline in the knowledge of international protocol and standards governing state awards led to the adoption of the catch-all term "award" to refer in general to presidential or state honors. The Presidential Medal of Merit is actually one of the oldest recognitions of our Republic, dating to the years immediately after independence in 1946.

Originally, the Presidential Medal of Merit was conferred on or near Independence Day, which used to be July 4. Civic groups were deputized to select people for recognition, and the President of the Philippines would then confer the medal in a ceremony in the Palace. At times, the award was given to entire groups, such as the Code Commission (appointed by President Roxas to modernize the Civil Code of the Philippines, it finished its work during the Quirino presidency), or families worthy of recognition for their excellence of character. Aside from the Code Commission (which had as one of its members, Arturo Tolentino), among the recipients of the Presidential Medal of Merit were the Court of Industrial Relations and Jose Braulio Sison's family (July 3, 1949 by President Quirino); and Florencio Tamesis and family (July 10, 1958 by President Garcia). Presidents also conferred the medal on their predecessors or former first ladies: President Quirino conferred it on Sergio Osmeña and Aurora Quezon (posthumously) on July 3, 1949; President Magsaysay conferred it on Presidents Elpidio Quirino and Emilio Aguinaldo on July 2, 1956.

While it's been extremely difficult to piece together the roster of Presidential Medal of Merit recipients (record-keeping in the government is in a mess, and apparently I'm the only one interested in putting such lists together), a survey on some (but not all) of the recipients of this medal gives an interesting combination of achievements and personalities. By Magsaysay: Juan Nakpil (architect), Lucrezia Kasilag (musician); by Garcia: Jovita Fuentes (soprano), Severino Montano (playwright); by Marcos: Vicente Madrigal, "Flash" Elorde (boxer); by Aquino: Lea Salonga, Cecile Licad; by Ramos: Haydee Yorac, Franklin Drilon; by Estrada: Victorino Rodriguez; by Arroyo: Manny Pacquiao, George Canseco, Zeneida Amador.

If you know of someone who has been conferred any of the state honors mentioned above, do let me know through www.Quezon.ph

Reports on FPJ's death

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

FORMER PRESIDENTIAL candidate Fernando Poe Jr. has been in the news since he died of brain stroke last Dec. 14. Barring any other important news, he will be in the limelight until his burial on Dec. 22.

On the day he died, the INQUIRER reported the event with the headline "'Da King' is dead." The subhead read "Fernando Poe Jr. united nation in prayer during two-day vigil for his recovery." Except for two unrelated stories, the newspaper's front page that day carried reports about the cause of his death and the vigil conducted by his fans.

A reader (whose identity I will keep under wraps for security reasons) did not like the way the INQUIRER announced Poe's death. He wrote: "All I can say with the way you wrote your stories about Poe is: OA, OVER ACTING, EXAGGERATED. You gave him too much publicity. You better go with him to... (expletive deleted)!!!"

I was taken aback by his e-mail. It was the first time that I came across this kind of reaction to a person's death. Respect for the dead, regardless of how he may have conducted his life, is ingrained in the Filipino culture. More so, if he is well regarded in his community.

I'm used to getting complaints about the newspaper's manner of reporting the death of prominent figures in the country. For political or personal reasons, the readers have contrasting views over the way the media announce the demise of those people.

Newsworthy

Last year, in the course of the INQUIRER's reporting on the death of actor Rico Yan, some readers complained about the treatment it gave that tragic event. While they believe Yan was a model of good behavior for the youth, they felt the coverage was made at the expense of other more important news reports.

But noticeably, no reader made a disparaging word about Yan's person. The complaints focused on the newspaper's manner of informing the public about his death, no reference at all was made to his character or whatever mistakes he might have committed when he was still alive.

In FPJ's case, it is inevitable for the newspaper to give him the kind of reporting it is doing now. Politics or bias for the late presidential candidate has nothing to do with it. Poe is a newsmaker, and a prime one at that. Aside from being a popular movie actor, he was a candidate who almost won the highest post of the land in the last presidential elections.

His high standing in the country is attested by the fact that President Macapagal-Arroyo continues to express her desire to pay her respects to him in person even if some of his relatives or political advisers are against that idea. There are even moves by some sectors to have the national flag placed at half-mast in government offices to honor him.

The newspaper will be remiss in its duty to inform the public about newsworthy events if it does a Ninoy Aquino-style coverage of Poe's death. In 1983, the Marcos-controlled print and broadcast media treated Ninoy's murder as a "non-event" despite the fact that millions of people were outraged by his assassination and notwithstanding the biggest crowd in the country's history to join a funeral cortege.

A broadsheet came up with a semblance of a news report by putting on its front page a photo of the crowd, but its headline was about the man who was struck by lightning during the funeral procession.

Biased reporting

The reader's complaint about the newspaper's reporting on Poe's death reminds me of the saying "you can't please everybody." There will always be somebody who will be unhappy about the way a news report is presented in terms of accuracy, objectivity or fairness.

During last May's elections, my mailbox was filled with letters protesting the INQUIRER's "pro-GMA" bias. Some readers felt the newspaper was subtly endorsing the candidacy of President Arroyo with the almost daily reports on her activities on the campaign trail.

Even the election advertisements that came out in the newspaper became the subject of complaints. Some candidates grumbled about the publication of "infomercials" about the accomplishments of government offices that prominently featured the President's face.

I told them there was nothing legally wrong with those advertisements. If they felt the ads violated the election laws, all they have to do is to secure an order from the Commission on Elections stopping further publication of those materials and the newspaper will promptly comply with it.

During the canvass of the presidential and vice-presidential votes in Congress, a member of Poe's PR staff sent me a blistering letter decrying the newspaper's refusal to print the stories about the opposition's own tally of election returns showing Poe's lead over Ms Arroyo.

I explained to her that the editorial staff, not the newspaper management or anyone else, decides on what is fit for publication and what is not. The editors reported only on the count made by the National Movement for Free Elections in its capacity as the authorized citizen's arm of the Comelec.

Now, it looks like there has been a change in wind direction: the INQUIRER is being perceived as pro-FPJ because of the way it is reporting the goings-on in Poe's funeral.

Well, that's how the cookie crumbles in the newspaper industry, especially in this country. You simply can't win them all.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

One is enough

"I like being with one woman. I'm more of that sort of person. I'm not someone who enjoys having comfort in numbers."
—Hollywood actor Nicholas Cage

Last shot

"Ever since, I never believed in giving up. But I just felt that now was the right time to say goodbye to basketball."
—Four-time PBA Most Valuable Player Alvin Patrimonio on his retirement

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

For commuters' sake

THIS letter is particularly intended for the Land Transportation Office and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

A couple of days ago, I took a jeepney at the Alabang Metropolis public transport terminal on my usual morning route to the Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig. Somewhere and sometime after we had exited from the Bicutan Interchange, along the north-bound lane of the South Service Road, the jeepney stopped. The driver apologetically asked all passengers to get off and to transfer to another vehicle, refunding each one of us the P5.50-fare we had earlier paid. The reason—we learned soon enough—was that LTO agents were posted near the FTI, checking passenger jeepneys for compliance with franchising and related regulations.

In that part of the road, we found it difficult to get a new ride as most other jeepneys bad been similarly turning back for the same reason. The very few that proceeded to the FTI were fully loaded to accommodate us. And so, the road was suddenly awash with stranded commuters from all walks of life—students, employees, housewives, some with wares or kids—each one reflecting whether to walk the rest of the way, go back to Bicutan or Alabang, or wait for an elusive north-bound ride.

I fully appreciate the drive of the LTO and the LTFRB against erring public transport drivers and operators. But must they do this in such a way that they must inconvenience the riding public? Couldn't these agencies muster a bit of prudence to tell their respective agents to conduct the inspection not on the roadside (simply because this is no traffic matter) but right at the vehicle terminals?

There is surely no better place where violations of LTO and LTFRB regulations could be nipped in the bud!

—RUDY L. CORONEL,
10 Venus St.,
Golden Country Homes,
Alangilan, Batangas City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Military probing death of Luisita peasant

THIS has reference to the article titled "'A solider shot me'; Luisita peasant leader shot dead." (PDI, 12/10/04)

The Northern Luzon Command (NolCom) under the leadership of Lt. Gen. Romeo B. Dominguez, strongly condemns the killing of Marcelino Beltran, a provincial leader of the Alyansang Magbubukid ng Tarlac and vice chair of the Anakpawis Party List by unidentified armed men in his home in Barangay San Sotero, Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac.

However, we are deeply saddened by the accusations pointing to the military as behind his murder, which have no basis other than the victim's supposed statement that a "soldier" (clad in "military uniform") shot him. There have been many instances in the past when NPA terrorists used military uniforms to pass themselves off as members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Foul accusations of alleged human rights violations by Army soldiers have not only caused demoralization among our troops but also served as a platform upon which anti-military groups and individuals undermine the integrity and respectability of the AFP.

Dominguez has already directed 7th Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Romeo Tolentino and 703rd Infantry Brigade Commander Pedro Curva to conduct a thorough investigation regarding the alleged involvement of an Army unit under the 7th Infantry Division and to fully cooperate in the investigation being conducted by the PNP Tarlac and NBI in the event they will conduct a separate probe on the incident.

Let it be known that the AFP is fully committed to uphold the human rights of every citizen, enemies of the state included. The full force of our law under the existing military justice system shall be imposed if anyone of our soldiers is found guilty of violating human rights.

The teaching of human rights principles is also part and parcel of the education and training curricula of all AFP learning institutions.

—PREME F. MONTA, LTC (INF) PA,
Command Information Office,
Northern Luzon Command,
Camp Gen. Servillano Aquino,
San Miguel, Tarlac City

Sense of country

THE EXECUTIVE order issued by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza requiring all malls in Manila to play the national anthem at opening and closing time every business day (PDI, 12/1/04) has a noble objective. However, it is doubtful that it will succeed in inculcating nationalism among mall-goers in Manila or among Filipinos, for that matter.

Nationalism cannot be forced upon anybody by executive order or legislation. It comes naturally from the heart. It is an emotion or feeling that needs no inducement.

Another reason for pessimism is the fact that extreme personalism, the strongest weakness of the Filipino character, easily overpowers nationalism.

In 1987, the Senate created a task force to conduct an inquiry into the strengths and weaknesses of the Filipino character with a view to solving the social ills and strengthening the nation's moral fiber. The inquiry came up with a remarkable report that could have served as the basis for a moral recovery program. But nationalism was not listed in the report as among our strengths; in fact, extreme personalism was considered our foremost weakness.

I am not aware of the fate of that report. It must have gone the way of good intentions that never saw true flowering. Now, a commission for values formation has been created by the administration. And Atienza has launched the "Kilusang Pilipinas Kong Mahal" that seeks to revive nationalistic fervor in Filipinos. The theme of last year's national day celebration was "Bayan Ko, Sagot Ko." Its objective was basically similar to Atienza's. Regrettably, all these idealistic intentions have to contend with old habits that die hard.

I have observed that we cannot even wear our nationalism on our sleeves. Last week, I went to the mall to watch a movie. When the national anthem was played on the screen, the moviegoers could hardly stand erect. I could not believe that I was the only one mumbling the lyrics of our anthem with my right hand placed on my left breast.

This is in sharp contrast to the nationalism of the people of the countries where I had served as a diplomat. In Hungary, a former communist country, my wife and I made it a point to attend the Sunday Mass at the ornate Catholic church in downtown Budapest. The end of the Mass was always accentuated by the singing of the Hungarian national anthem titled "Himnus," which has a religious tone. We were simply overwhelmed by the fervor with which the churchgoers sang the anthem.

I also admire the passion of the South Koreans, another people with a strong sense of nationalism, in singing their national anthem. I was envoy to Seoul from 1999 until my retirement from the foreign service last year and have seen how nationalism contributed to Korea's economic growth and dynamism.

Exposure to other countries and people makes us appreciate the importance of Filipino nationalism or lament the lack of it.

—JUANITO P. JARASA,
jjarasa@easycall.com.ph

Prayer power

ON THE NIGHT of Dec. 2, the cell phone was used to pass on prayer requests and prayers for God's intervention as super typhoon Yoyong approached. Yoyong was spotted on satellite imagery to be larger than the Philippines, and much, much stronger than the last storm, Winnie which had wreaked havoc upon several provinces, causing untold misery to our already suffering brothers and sisters in the countryside.

Projected to make landfall that evening, Yoyong was also forecast to linger till the afternoon of the following day. Because of this, Yoyong brought so much fear and anxiety in our hearts.

In our helplessness, we turned to God. Because we believed, then as now, that super typhoon Yoyong would be no match to the power of prayer. For no matter how softly we whisper our prayer to God, if it is coming from the heart, He will listen. That night we asked Him for a miracle.

Instantly, texters and textmates became a "prayer army."

And God answered our prayers. That what we expected and prepared for did not come to pass proves once again that "with God nothing is impossible."

"The Lord has done great things for us, let us rejoice and be glad!" Let us be thankful unto God and bless His Name.

—HANNAH LILIAN M. VICENTE
46 Sunburst St., SSS Village,
1811 Marikina City

Best way to avoid HIV/AIDs

WE read with concern the article on "MTV Staying Alive Music Summit For HIV/AIDS," which was staged on Dec. 1 at the Bonifacio Global City Open Field with Frenzy Condoms, UNAIDS and Globe Gentxt as sponsors. (PDI, 11/13/04)

MTV believes that generating awareness about the threats of HIV/AIDS will save the youth from harm. One of its sponsors, Frenzy Condoms, says, "The correct and consistent use of condoms is the most basic HIV prevention approach."

We believe events such as this mislead our youth into complacency about HIV/AIDS and what condoms can do. A document recently published by Lancet, a prestigious medical magazine and signed by experts from 36 countries, recognizes for the first time that abstinence and fidelity are key to stopping the spread of AIDS. Uganda President Yoweri Museveni, representatives of the World Bank and of the Global Fund for Malaria, Tuberculosis and AIDS, and officials from five UN agencies are among the signatories of the statement.

The experts say that HIV/AIDS has become a health and humanitarian crisis that requires urgent intervention. They also say that the use of condoms is not enough to stop the spread of AIDS, and that abstinence should be promoted among young people who have not yet engaged in sexual activity, emphasizing that avoiding risks is the best way to prevent AIDS and many other sexually transmitted infections, as well as unwanted pregnancies.

If sexual activity has already occurred, they say, individuals should still be encouraged to return to abstinence or mutual fidelity with one person as the best way to avoid infection.

The experts insist that condoms are not 100 percent safe. "Young people and adults should know that condoms reduce the risk of infection from 80-90 percent when they are used consistently," they say. This means that even when used each time there is sexual contact, condoms do not guarantee against HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

The experts also reminded parents of their responsibility to pass on the proper values on sexual behavior to their children.

—MEG FRANCISCO,
Alliance for the Family
Foundation Philippines,
305 2 Lapu Lapu cor. Edsa,
Magallanes, Makati City

Imagine these in your home.
And they're FREE!

Money Back raffle

You can win a maximum prize refund of ₱100,000 every week!

- For every ₱1,000 purchase, you get a raffle coupon. Fill out and drop in drop boxes at Wilcon. Keep your sales invoice.
- There will be one winner per draw. The prize is a refund of purchases made at Wilcon – a maximum of ₱100,000 in cash.
- Raffle draws will be every Sunday, 10:00 AM, starting October 3, 2004 until January 2, 2005. These will be held at the Wilcon Builders' Depot Main Office in Libis, Quezon City.
- Promo begins on September 24, 2004. It ends on January 1, 2005 in Metro Manila and December 31, 2004 in Davao.

See flyers for details.

E-mail: wilcon@wilcon.com.ph • Website: wilcon.com.ph

WILCON DEPOT
WILCON SUPPLY
Build anything. We have everything.

WILCON BUILDERS' DEPOT:

Libis 90 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugong Norte, Libis, QC (formerly Uniwide)
Trunkline: 634-8387/ Tel: 634-8381 to 86/ Fax: 633-9331
Alabang 8003 Real St., Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City (across Toyota Alabang)
Trunkline: 809-9106/ Tel: 809-7866, 809-9481, 809-9106, 772-0312 to 14
Fax: 772-0311, 772-0315
Balintawak 1274 EDSA, Balintawak, QC (before Dist. Limtuaco)
Trunkline: 362-8521/ Tel: 362-4531, 362-8268 to 83
Pasong Tamo 2212 Pasong Tamo, Makati City (beside Cityland Tower, in front of Don Bosco Chapel) - Tel: 893-3120, 893-3127, 893-3142, 893-3172/ Fax: 893-3108

WILCON BUILDERS' SUPPLY:

Muñoz 1064 EDSA, QC – 926-1504, 921-3342
Quezon Ave. QC – 712-3673
Las Piñas Las Piñas City – 807-8233
Ortigas 225 EDSA, East Greenhills – 727-6064
Pasay EDSA, Pasay City – 832-0242
Quirino QC – 935-9653
Libis QC – 637-5623
Mindanao Ave. QC – 455-8566
Davao Matina, Davao City – (082) 297-9652

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2007 Series of 2004

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: Inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Parents storm pre-need educational plan office

DAVAO CITY—Agitated by the seeming breakdown of "assurance" from the College Assurance Plan (CAP), parents of scholars of the pre-need educational plan stormed its regional office here Friday to demand explanation and even payment.

This came following the receipt of a letter from San Pedro College (SPC) management, a premier Catholic-run private school here, asking the parents to settle their accounts for the second semester of the school year, which was supposed to have been shouldered by their CAP insurance.

The Ateneo de Davao University and the Davao Doctors College also earlier refused to accept CAP checks, and required their students with CAP scholarship to pay instead.

The problem was resolved with the students taking the responsibility of paying, with the assurance that CAP will refund their payment.

But the INQUIRER learned that some students have not been reimbursed the money due them.

In the letter, signed by SPC president Sr. Aida Frencillo, parents of CAP scholars were required to pay their accounts pending availability of CAP funds in order not to jeopardize the operation of the school.

Apparently, CAP-Philippines failed to pay for the enrolment, even the down payments, of their scholars enrolled in SPC.

The letter also indicated that the insurance company also failed to "fulfill its promise to pay the accounts of CAP scholars for the first semester of school year 2004-2005."

Frencillo also said that all checks issued by CAP-Philippines for the first semester accounts of CAP scholars bounced twice due to insufficiency of funds.

Frencillo said they were left with no choice but to ask the CAP scholars themselves to pay for their school accounts by January next year. The back accounts will be collected in three equal installments from January to March 2005.

"Our pending account is around P15,000 to P17,000 for the preliminary exams . . . and we are being asked to pay it by January. CAP should settle this immediately or we suffer the difficulty of paying it," a parent said.

"We are also afraid that this could affect the education of our children," another parent said.

But CAP, through its account manager Neneng Remoroza, account manager, said the company have available funds to pay for the pending accounts of their scholars.

She said they were still waiting for their share from the P110-million funds to be released by the CAP head office in Manila.

The P110 million is intended for all the CAP scholars nationwide but the money will not be released in full. She said the CAP national office would release the money in P25-million scheme.

The INQUIRER also learned that the CAP regional office here has a pending account of P35 million for all its scholars in this region alone.

Remoroza said CAP would implement a 'first come, first serve' scheme for the payment.

"We are doing our best here to follow up and solve the problem. *Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

LITTLE angels join the annual Christmas tree lighting at the Baguio Country Club. TOOTS SOBERANO, PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

DAR orders power firm to stop developing orchard farm in Aklan

By Recto I. Vidal
PDI Visayas Bureau

KALIBO, Aklan—The Department of Agrarian Reform provincial office has ordered Mirant Power Corp. to stop developing the 2.8 hectare orchard farm as a site of their diesel-fed 5-megawatt power plant in Barangay Mabilo, New Washington town.

The cease and desist order (CDO) was issued on Dec. 16 and was signed by lawyer Daniel Martelino, Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II.

Martelino told Mirant and its subsidiary Toledo Holdings to stop developing the area within ten days from the receipt of the CDO.

He warned that failure to comply with the order would compel the DAR to file criminal charges against the respondents for violating Republic Act 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law on the "premature conversion" of agricultural lands into industrial estates.

It was learned that Mirant failed to file an application for conversion with the DAR office here since it constructed its power plant in June 2004 despite a previous CDO issued by the DAR.

One of the violations found by DAR during its investigation was a land transfer transaction between its former owner Chelma Reyes and the Toledo Holdings.

"We found said transfer of property questionable since it has been registered with the Registry of Deeds even without a clearance from DAR as mandated by the DAR administrative order no.1 series of 1989. This is an administrative offense. In other words, it has not gone through the usual process," said lawyer Carol Morales, chief legal division of DAR-Aklan.

Documents showed that Reyes issued a special power of attorney in favor of lawyer Simonette Peralta who executed a deed of absolute sale to Toledo Holdings. The lawyer is a daughter of Mayor Edmund Peralta of New Washington.

Morales told the INQUIRER that the land transfer was registered at the Registry of Deeds on April 5 and was approved by Fiscal Lourdes Quimpo Mayor under TCT no. 3431. A new land title was issued to Toledo Holding on the same day.

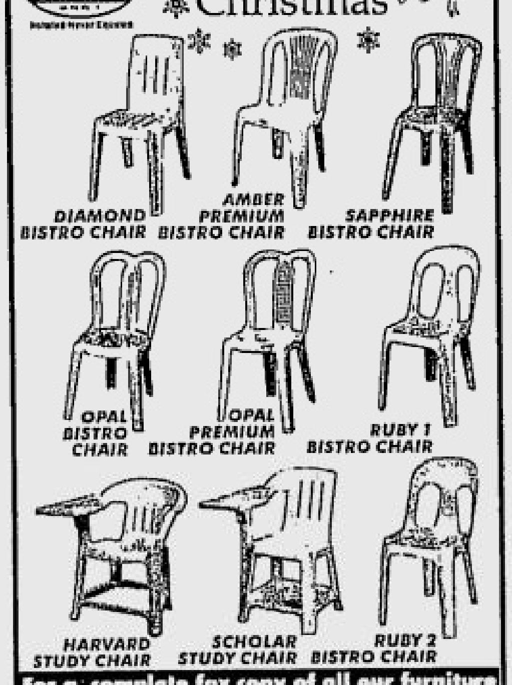
He said the second violation was the alleged "illegal construction" of the power plant, which was now about 80 percent completed, because it had no approval from the DAR.

He pointed out that Mirant also did not apply for conversion when it started building the power plant in the orchard farm.

The INQUIRER learned that as early as May 5, the DAR had asked Mirant to stop developing the area since it had not obtained any clearance from the DAR but the latter ignored it and continued to bring in heavy equipment like into the project site.

Adrian Moncado, assistant vice president of Mirant Global Corp., told Reloj that his concerns had well been noted and was assured that Mirant would comply with all the requirements for the application for conversion.

First and Foremost
COFTA ORIGINAL
Merry Christmas



DIAMOND BISTRO CHAIR
AMBER PREMIUM BISTRO CHAIR
SAPPHIRE BISTRO CHAIR
OPAL BISTRO CHAIR
OPAL PREMIUM BISTRO CHAIR
RUBY 1 BISTRO CHAIR
HARVARD STUDY CHAIR
SCHOLAR STUDY CHAIR
RUBY 2 BISTRO CHAIR

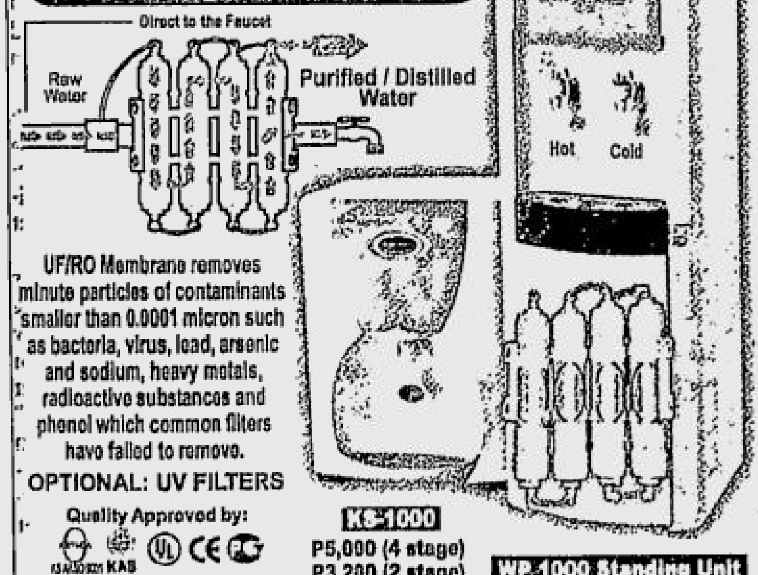
For a complete fax copy of all our furniture models: (chairs, benches, tables, study chairs...), please call LIANA TRADING CORPORATION (authorized dealer) at tel. 241-6701 to 04.

Most items are available at MC HOME DEPOT (Ortigas & Fort Bonifacio, MM) & DO-IT-YOURSELF Stores (Metro Manila).

REDUCE YOUR EXPENSES & STILL HAVE SAFE DRINKING WATER

Bio WATERPIA

Advanced Technology with 4-Stage Filters



UF/RO Membrane removes minute particles of contaminants smaller than 0.0001 micron such as bacteria, virus, lead, arsenic and sodium, heavy metals, radioactive substances and phenol which common filters have failed to remove.

OPTIONAL: UV FILTERS

Quality Approved by:

KS-1000
P5,000 (4 stage)
P3,200 (2 stage)

WP-1000 Standing Unit
P11,000 (4 stage)

Available at all SM outlets, Sogo, Automatic Centre, all Makro and True Value Outlets, Robinsons Handyman, Sta. Lucia East and Work Stations

*No Installation Fee within Metro Manila

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL

Service Centers:
Makati Tel. nos.: 843-1171 • 892-1638 • 844-0562 • 840-2527 Fax no.: 816-4881
Pampanga Tel. nos.: (045) 961-1686 to 87
Laguna Tel. nos.: (049) 834-1316 • (049) 545-0178 • (049) 838-0816
Davao Tel. nos.: (082) 297-7257 / 8997 Cebu Tel. no.: (032) 346-0660

Canon
ENJOY BIGGER, BRIGHTER IMAGES AT SHORT RANGE.
LV-X4: 1,500 Lumens. True XGA, 2.9kg

GET ON TOP OF YOUR GAME WITH A PROJECTOR THAT'S BIG ON FEATURES.

Now you can swing into winning action with bigger, brighter images and greater flexibility than ever before! Because Canon's new LV-X4 multi-media projector can make your small room seem as large as a fairway. All thanks to its 1.6x wide zoom lens, the highest in its class, which gives you the flexibility to project a 100-inch image from a distance of only 2.5m. Such freedom makes the LV-X4 the top projector of its kind. For greater professional results, check out the rest of our projector range, featuring Keystone Correction for distortion-free images, and options for PC-less presentations. So give it your best shot by choosing Canon today.

LV-S3
1,250 Lumens.
True SUVA, 2.2kg

LV-5210
2,000 Lumens
True SVGA, 2.9kg

LV-7220
2,000 Lumens.
True XGA, 2.9kg

LV-7225
2,500 Lumens.
True XGA, 2.9kg

LV-7555
4,600 Lumens.
True XGA, 9.3kg

South & Southeast Asia Regional Headquarters:
Canon Singapore Pte Ltd 1 HarbourFront Avenue, #04-01, Keppel Bay Tower, Singapore 098632 www.canon-asia.com
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City • Tels.: 812-6047 • Fax: 894-4174
E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

Business Partners: All Visual & Lights Systems Tels.: 911-0904; 911-0947 • Cosmotech Communications & Systems Co. Tels.: 750-2484; 920-0241
Gloo Electronics Tels.: 744-1370 to 79 • Prodata System Tels.: 723-1900, 880-2800

Branch Offices CMP-Cebu Door 10, 1F & 20 Free Star Arcade, Hernan Cortes St., Subangdaku, Mandaue City Tels.: (032) 346-3880; (032) 346-3821 Fax: (032) 344-6778 • CMP-Davao 301 E. Palma Gil St., Bo. Obrero Davao, City Tel.. (082) 277-4820 Fax: (082) 222-3302 • CMP-La Union Ground Floor, M. Peralta Bldg., Quezon Ave., Sevilla Norte, San Fernando City, La Union Tels.: (072) 242-4587; (072) 242-0440 CMP-Legaspi Door 7 & 8 Ground Floor, CEA Bldg., Lapu-Lapu St., Legaspi City Tels.: (052) 480-0331; (052) 820-2083 Fax: (052) 214-3863 • CMP-Pampanga Pistahan Bldg., McArthur Highway, Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga Tel.: (045) 961-8496

Micro-finance agencies tapped to help farmers

By Norman Bordadora

LAND Reform Secretary Rene Villa has tapped the services of 16 micro-finance institutions to help farmer-beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program to augment their income and dissuade them from selling or pawning their farmland-benefits.

Villa said that farmer-beneficiaries must have other sources of livelihood to resist the temptation of pawning or selling their farmlands if only to meet their needs while waiting for harvest to come.

"The lack of alternative sources of [livelihood] forces some farmer-beneficiaries to pawn their lands. In most occasions, the farmers fail to recover their lands because of excessive interest rates," Villa said.

The Department of Land Reform last week launched the Microfinance Solutions Project, or Microsol.

"Microsol offers small loans to farmer-beneficiaries, which they could use as starting capital for their small businesses. Average amount of loan each farmer can apply is P8,750," he said.

Villa said that while Microsol is not a quick-fix solution to the livelihood issues of farmer-beneficiaries, it could help make farmer-beneficiaries augment their income and dissuade them from pawning their lands.

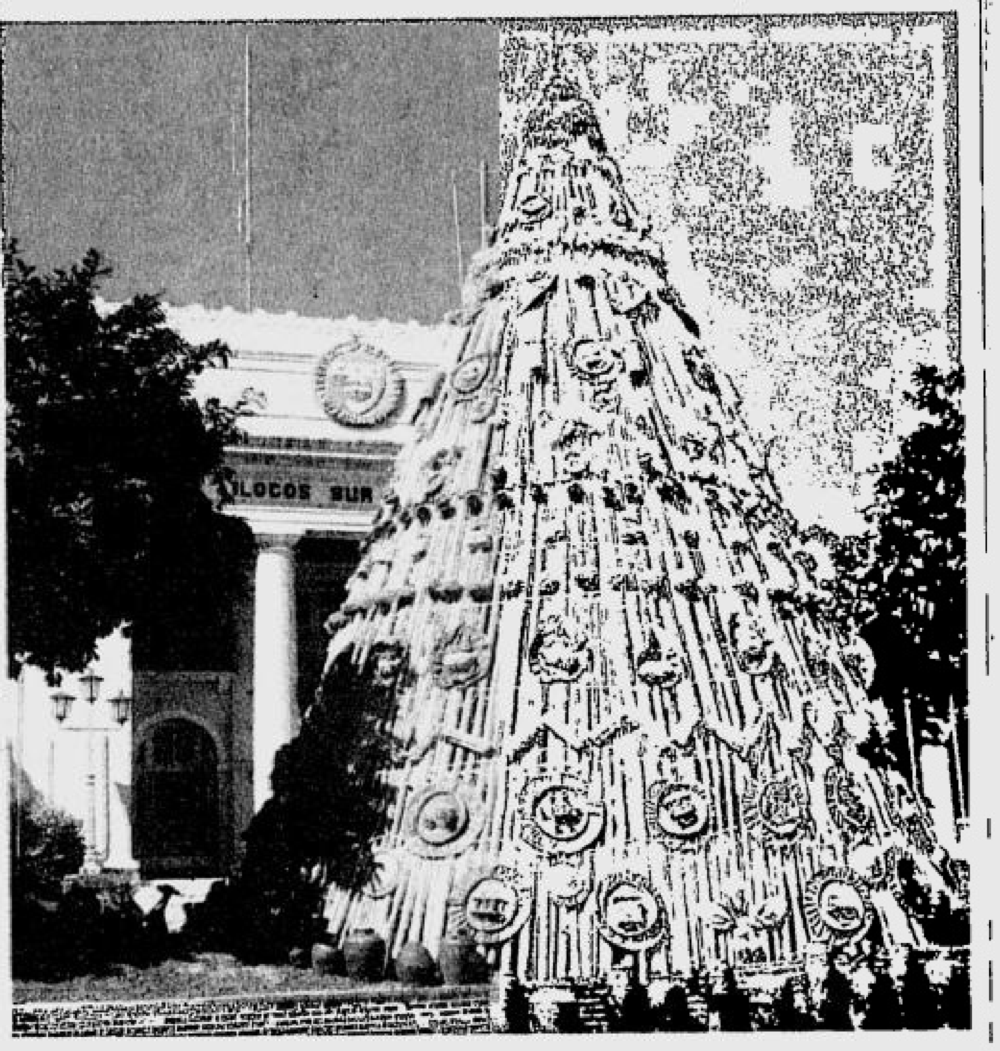
Villa said 16 micro-finance institutions accredited by the People's Credit and Finance Corp. (PCFC) are involved in the project.

The PCFC will be the lead wholesale lending institution, while the 16 lending institutions will provide micro-financing to the farmer-beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries to the project are agrarian reform communities in 17 provinces that are under the coverage of the Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project II (ARCDP2), a foreign-assisted project under the auspices of the World Bank.

The provinces are Batanes, Isabela, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Quezon, Occidental Mindoro and Albay in Luzon; Negros Oriental and Bohol in the Visayas; and Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, Misamis Occidental and Zamboanga del Norte in Mindanao.

The WB-ARCDP2 has committed P36 million to the project to subsidize salaries of frontline staff of the micro-finance institutions and to provide logistics and mobility support.



ILOCOS SUR'S BEST LEONCIO BALBIN JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

The well-known products of Ilocos Sur, such as tobacco, jars, tiles, garlic and others, are hung on this Christmas tree in front of the provincial capitol.

City probes Baguio water project

BAGUIO CITY—The city council is investigating a bulk water supply project here, after receiving confirmation from the city's water utility on Monday that it will need to raise P60 million a month to pay the winning contractor.

Teresita de Guzman, general manager of the Baguio Water District (BWD), said the P60-million monthly fee was computed against the contractor's expenditures in pumping water from sources located outside the city.

She declined to estimate the potential water rate increase that BWD would need to fulfill this contract, but a consumer group said Baguio water prices could shoot up three times higher than the average rate of P29.90 per cubic meter of water.

De Guzman said the BWD earns no more than P20 million a month from water sales because it services only 65 percent of Baguio's 300,000 residents.

She said BWD can only generate 35,000 cubic meters of water a day to address a daily demand of 52,000 cubic meters of water, but the daily demand by 2010 could rise from 120,000 to 150,000 cubic meters.

To cope, the city lifestyle has adapted to a water-rationing and water-recycling routine since 1980.

De Guzman said that by consolidating a bulk water supplier with its current water distribution system, BWD would be able to supply all areas of the city from eight to 12 hours a day.

The Baguio bulk water supply project was started in 1997 to mitigate two decades of water rationing here. The project's lone bidder is Benguet Corp., the country's oldest mine firm, which plans to convert one of its largest open pit mines in Itogon, Benguet, into a reservoir.

Benguet Corp. has acquired water rights to at least 56 water sources in Itogon.

Leopoldo Sison, Benguet Corp. bulk water project manager, asked the council to exclude the firm from the probe since the bidders had no influence in the way the bulk water project was designed.

Benguet Corp. was not yet a party to any water contract because the final stage of the bulk water supply bidding process required an evaluation of the firm's financial offer, Sison said.

Benjamin Philip Romualdez, Benguet Corp. president, said Baguio residents already spend extravagant costs for water. He said households supplement their rationed water by buying 10 to 30 drums of water from deep well operators and water delivery firms, in violation of BWD's franchise.

Residents here spend an average of P120 per delivery of water. Few of these water delivery firms are regulated, De Guzman told the council.

"We are actually providing these truckers sufficient competition because we are offering 50,000 cubic meters of water each day for P40 or lower for every cubic meter of water (based on a ceiling provided by BWD's bid terms of reference)," Romualdez said.

The BWD's pre-qualification bids and awards committee had already disqualified Benguet Corp. in July over questions about the quality of its water source.

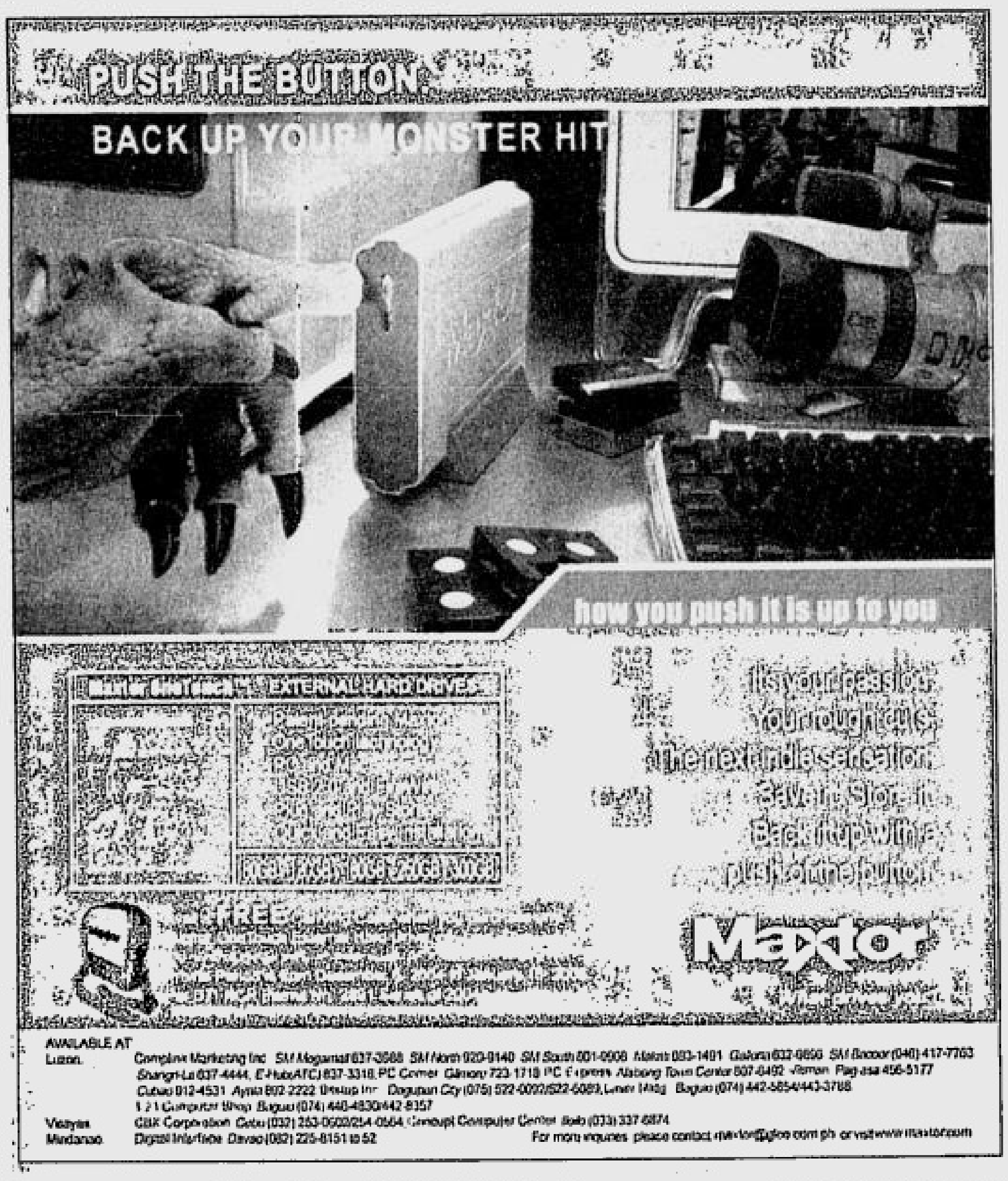
But the BWD board of directors reversed the committee, after Romualdez protested the findings and after the Local Water Utilities Administration officially intervened.

Some councilors questioned the propriety of these interventions because of their impact on BWD's track record with bulk water supply projects.

BWD had first awarded the bulk water supply contract to a winning bidder in 1997, but the firm pulled out when the Asian currency crisis affected the economy.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon has been pushing for a review of the bulk water supply project, after citing evidence that Baguio's high rainfall average each year could be a sufficient source for water.

Yaranon said BWD should explore cheaper alternatives that would not require the city to buy water from other towns. These schemes include harnessing smaller reservoirs to impound and treat run-off rainwater. *Vincent Cabreza and Donna Demetillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*


PUSH THE BUTTON
BACK UP YOUR MONSTER HIT
how you push it is up to you
EXTERNAL HARD DRIVES
It's your passion. Your original music. The next indie sensation. Save it. Store it. Back it up with a push of the button.
FREE
Maxtor
AVAILABLE AT

Landslide survivor sees bleak prospects for siblings

NAGA CITY—Like a thief in the night, death came and claimed eight lives in Tinambac, Camarines Sur, while everyone was in deep sleep.

In the wee hours of the morning on Sunday, Dec. 12, the continuous downpour that started a day earlier finally unleashed its deadly force that collapsed a hill along the national highway, crushing several houses as the landslide debris settled on the lower portion of the area.

Alvin Segovia, 17, who lost both his parents and his three younger siblings during the landslide, could not comprehend how it happened even as he had heard about the bigger tragedy in Real, Quezon.

Segovia said that without premonition or sign of danger, he and his family were lulled to sleep at about 8 p.m., as the downpour continued.

"It was so sudden that I woke up while some villagers were already pulling me out of the rubble down the rice fields at about three in the morning," he said.

Segovia, his brothers Ronnel, 1, Ryan, 3, and sister Ivy, 9, suffered only minor bruises while his brother Ariel, 14, broke his leg.

His parents, Arnel, 49, and Veronica, 37, and three other siblings—Joven, 15, Franco, 11, and Jason, 7, were not as lucky.

Responsibility

Staring blankly on a hospital bed with his brother Ariel, he had no idea how he could survive after the tragedy, now that the responsibility of raising the Segovia siblings rests on his shoulders.

"I have finished only my elementary education and I am planning to continue my high school education next year. But how can I do it," Segovia asked.

He said their house, which was made of light materials, once stood just before a hill with sparse coconut grove. The hill collapsed after two typhoons passed by the province and the soil was loosened by the continuous downpour on Saturday.

Segovia, whose parents came from the neighboring province of Albay, had been waiting for assistance from his relatives a day after the tragedy happened.

He could not take care of all the needs of his other siblings recuperating in the hospital.

Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr. extended some financial assistance to the Segovia family and the other victims of the tragedy.

He said he had already directed his office to extend scholarship grants to the Segovia siblings and ordered the rehabilitation of the area.

Possible relocation

He said he had also directed the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council to further identify populated areas near the hillsides along the highways for possible relocation.

Villafuerte said the provincial government would also review the disaster response plan in Camarines Sur to avoid unexpected incidents like the tragedy that happened in Tinambac town. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PASKONG PASKO NA TALAGA...
Tropical Hut
P60
Tropical Hut
P75
P98
1 pc. chicken meal
P98
spaghetti and 1 pc. chicken meal
P98
only P35
Green Salad
add P18
Chicken Sopas
2 pc. chicken meal
spring chicken meal
Tropical Hut

Allies in the Visayas mourn death of 'Da King'

CEBU CITY—Friends and political allies of Fernando Poe Jr. in the Visayas joined the nation in expressing grief and sorrow over his death, especially since his electoral protest has yet to be resolved.

Former Bohol Gov. Rene Relampagos said the death of Poe left hanging his quest for justice in his election protest case.

Relampagos, who was Poe's provincial standard-bearer in the last election, said Poe's protest was not only intended to prove that he won the election but more importantly to lead to the prosecution of those who make a mockery of the people's mandate.

"I pity him. He died a frustrated man," added Tagbilaran City Mayor Dan Lim.

Lim, who ran and won under the Partido ng Masang Pilipino of ex-President Joseph Estrada, said Poe came out of his comfort zone to offer himself in the service of the Filipino people but this failed to materialize when the votes were counted.

Negros Oriental Rep. Emilio Macias II, meanwhile, stressed it would still be premature to be thinking of politics, especially talking about Poe's supposed political successor.

He said he did not believe that Sen. Edgardo Angara was speaking for the LDP when the latter was quoted as saying that Poe's wife, actress Susan Roces, may be drafted to head the opposition.

Macias said the Nationalist People's Coalition, of which he is a member, has yet to meet to discuss the matter.

Shock

Other supporters of the actor were still in shock over his death.

"We have lost a leader and many of us are demoralized," said Boots Cadsawan, National President of the Filipinos for Peace, Justice and Progress Movement (FPJMP).

He said he does not see anyone among the opposition leaders who could match Poe's "sincerity to help and serve the people."

The group, which claims to have six million members, supported Poe's failed presidential bid in the May elections.

Cadsawan said Poe's supporters from nearby areas especially from Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog would come to the late action star's wake and burial set on Dec. 22.

He said the action star felt "bitter" with the slow pace of his electoral protest pending before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), which is constituted by the Supreme Court.

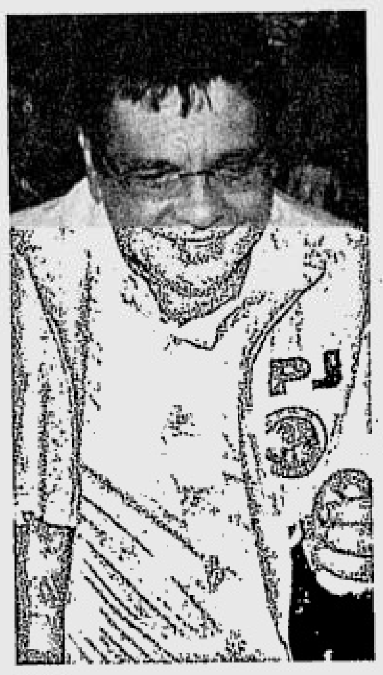
The FPJMP last month launched a signature campaign calling for the faster resolution of the protest. Cadsawan said they planned to gather one million signatures by late January or February next year.

They were now unsure whether to continue the campaign, said Cadsawan, saying they will discuss it after Poe's burial.

"Even if he has passed away, we all want to prove who really won the elections," said Cadsawan.

Poe, who lost to President Macapagal-Arroyo by 1.1 million votes in the official canvass, claimed the President cheated him in the May election.

Mayor Ricardo Presbitero of Valladolid, Negros Occidental said a great injustice had been done to a "deserving president" of the country. "It's time for the people to collectively pray for the restoration of the right democracy and to continue the legacy of FPJ," he said.


POE

In Bacolod City, Gil Arisola, FPJ Movement Bacolod chair, asked the supporters and fans of Poe to accept his death with open minds and hearts. "I personally believe that it is better that he is now with the Lord than to have survived and remain comatose," he said.

"I appeal for continuous prayers for FPJ and his family to remain strong to accept the will of God," Arisola said.

"Let us also not attach politics to the death of FPJ like attacking President Arroyo. It is not good. They should not put political color into the death of FPJ but accept the will of God," he said.

"The atmosphere in the entire province is so gloomy and sad," said Northern Samar Gov. Raul Daza, the Kilusan ng Nagkaisang Pilipino (KNP) in Eastern Visayas.

Poe won overwhelmingly in Northern Samar against closest rival President Macapagal.

Daza described Poe as a man of "courage" who "brought happiness to the Filipino people, specially the masses through the films he starred, directed and produced."

"I am sad. Knowing him as a sincere person whose only intention was to serve the people. I can say that he is a great loss to our country," said former Cebu City Mayor Garcia, who ran and lost in his mayoral bid in the last elections under Poe's ticket.

Leandro Boy Lido Patalinghug, a radio and stage drama writer and director in Cebu who chaired the FPJ Para sa Lahat movement in Central Visayas in the last elections, urged their different leaders in the Visayas to sponsor a Mass in their respective places for the eternal repose of Poe's soul.

Good deeds

Bacolod Mayor Evelio Leonardia, another political ally of Poe, said Poe would always have a place in the hearts of the people whose lives he touched. "More than the hero-image he projected in the movies, his enumerable good deeds will be remembered even much longer. Testimonies from people who benefited from the goodness of his golden heart are too many to count, because Ronnie not only gave from what he had, he gave of himself."

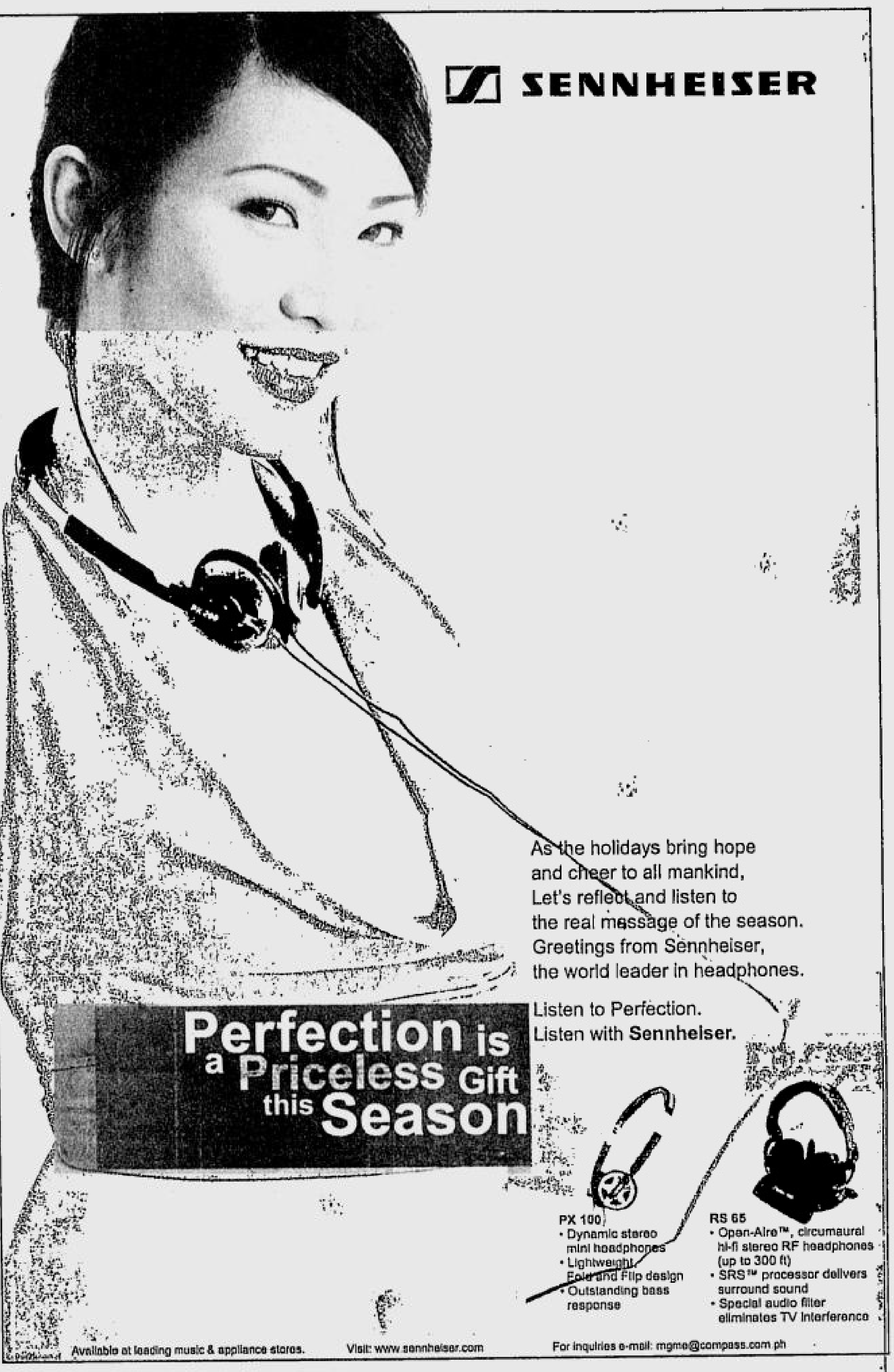
To give tribute to a "sincere and great man," former Mayor Alvin Garcia, who ran for Cebu City mayor under Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP), initiated the celebration of a Mass at 6 p.m. tonight at the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral.

Garcia said he had contacted Poe's supporters and fans of the actor to attend the Mass. "It is just a small but fitting tribute to a great person," he told the INQUIRER.

The FPJ Para sa Lahat already offered a Mass last Thursday at the Capitol Parish Church in Cebu City, said Leandro "Boy" Patalinghug, the group's coordinator in Central Visayas.

Patalinghug said that after the Mass which was attended by about 100 persons, they launched the signing of a manifesto, expressing their support and sympathy to the bereaved family.

He added the manifesto was initiated by Pio Tuadles, cousin of KNP defeated gubernatorial candidate Fred Tuadles. *Chito Fuentes, Alex Pal, Joey Gabieta, Nestor Burgos Jr., Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*


SENNHEISER

As the holidays bring hope
and cheer to all mankind,
Let's reflect and listen to
the real message of the season.
Greetings from Sennheiser,
the world leader in headphones.

Listen to Perfection.
Listen with **Sennheiser.**

PX 100
- Dynamic stereo mini headphones
- Lightweight Fold and Flip design
- Outstanding bass response

RS 65
- Open-Aire™, circumaural hi-fi stereo RF headphones (up to 300 ft)
- SRS™ processor delivers surround sound
- Special audio filter eliminates TV interference

Available at leading music & appliance stores. Visit: www.sennheiser.com For inquiries e-mail: mgme@compass.com.ph

Pera galing abroad,
in a few minutes matatanggap mo na*.

Puwede ba yon?

Call PLDT: 1-800-10-WESTERN**
para ang kasagutan malaman!

Para sa lahat ng gusto mong malaman tungkol sa fast and reliable money transfers ng Western Union tumawag sa PLDT: 1-800-10-WESTERN (9378376). [Non-PLDT: 02-8499073]. Malalaman nyo rin:

- Kung paano magpadala at tumanggap ng pera
- Kung saan ang pinakamalapit na agent locations
- Kung nasaan na ang perang pinadala sa iyo
- Ang tungkol sa mga bago naming promotional offers at iba pang impormasyon

Dahil alam ng Western Union, hindi lang pera ipinapadala, kundi pati kinabukasan at pangarap ng pamilya.

Subject to hours of operation of receiving agent locations and time zone differences. **9378376 © 2004 Western Union Holdings, Inc. All rights reserved.

Uniting people with possibilities℠

WESTERN UNION
MONEY TRANSFER

Group wants end to Igorot begging

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—"Ma-id" is a convenient word to know during the holidays, when elderly beggars from the Mountain Province flock to cities like Baguio and Metro Manila.

Lyn Madalang, executive director of gender rights advocate group Ebgan Inc., supplied tourists in Baguio this Bontoc word, meaning "nothing," but it's also handy for Metro Manila folk who are often approached by Cordilleran beggars seeking a coin or two "in the spirit of Christmas."

It's likely the same Cordillerans will be rounded up again by social workers before Christmas, but not before they have managed to earn enough to live on for a month, said Madalang.

"And it has to stop," she said.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development has about given up on indigenous Filipinos who visit Metro Manila to beg, when everyone is expected to be generous.

Last year, the DSWD returned 32 beggars to the Cordillera. The number was a big increase from the six Mt. Province elders who are known to frequent Metro Manila during the holidays, said Mandy Ramos, officer in charge of the DSWD Cordillera Crisis Intervention Unit.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority detained these six old women in 2002, she said. "It was so traumatic for them, but it didn't stop (the wave of beggars from the Cordillera)," Ramos said.

The DSWD in Metro Manila has also struggled to contain Badjao and Aeta beggars, because they come in clans during the tourist season.

But the increase in the number of Cordilleran beggars is unusual considering that Bontoc and Sagada villages in Mt. Province have strict rules against begging, said Madalang.

"A hungry family in Mt. Province will never beg for food from a neighbor. It's not how we are raised," she said.

Worse, the phenomenon involves elderly women, the very people who are expected to enshrine the community's history and protect their rituals, she said.

"Bontocs have engaged other (Cordillera) tribes in arguments about begging. An Ifugao once challenged (my friend) Ben Longid that Bontoc beggars have shamed the whole Igorot community, and (Longid) kept protesting that Bontocs (of Mt. Province) wouldn't do that," Madalang said.

Both government and academic surveys, however, confirm this accusation, she said.

Ramos said much of their data have not been validated because beggars they interview "tend to mislead us."

But the Mt. Province villages government was referred to are the same villages tracked down by Jeanette Palangchao-Scott, for an independent women's development study at the University of the Philippines.

DSWD is monitoring the villages of Mainit, Dalic, Dalican, and Malibcong in Bontoc town, and the villages of Fidelisan, Tanulong, Ducus and Teptepan in Sagada town.

Madalang said some of these villagers are themselves discriminated by fellow Mt. Province folk.

"They are the backward of the backward (villages). There are no roads, there is no government presence," she said.

"In fact, I suspect that others have ventured into begging using the names of these communities because people already gave them that reputation," she added.

Madalang said residents in cities, where these beggars find themselves in during Christmas, have already formed tales about how rich and powerful these Cordillera women really are.

Many of the beggars profiled by Scott's and Ramos' studies appear to have "families in Baguio, and are well-off because they have houses, they are well fed and have professionals for sons and daughters."

"When Scott traced three of her respondents back to their home villages, she validated the (tales). They had houses. They merely found a lucrative way of earning when the planting season was over," Madalang said.

"One consistently told story in Mt. Province involves the first beggar who accidentally fell into this new trade when she lost her money in a big city and imitated the town's beggars. She discovered that every time she stretched out her palm, people would give, and she shared this detail with her friends back home," she said.

Madalang said Mt. Province villagers stopped short of ostracizing these beggars, mainly because their own families tolerate the practice.

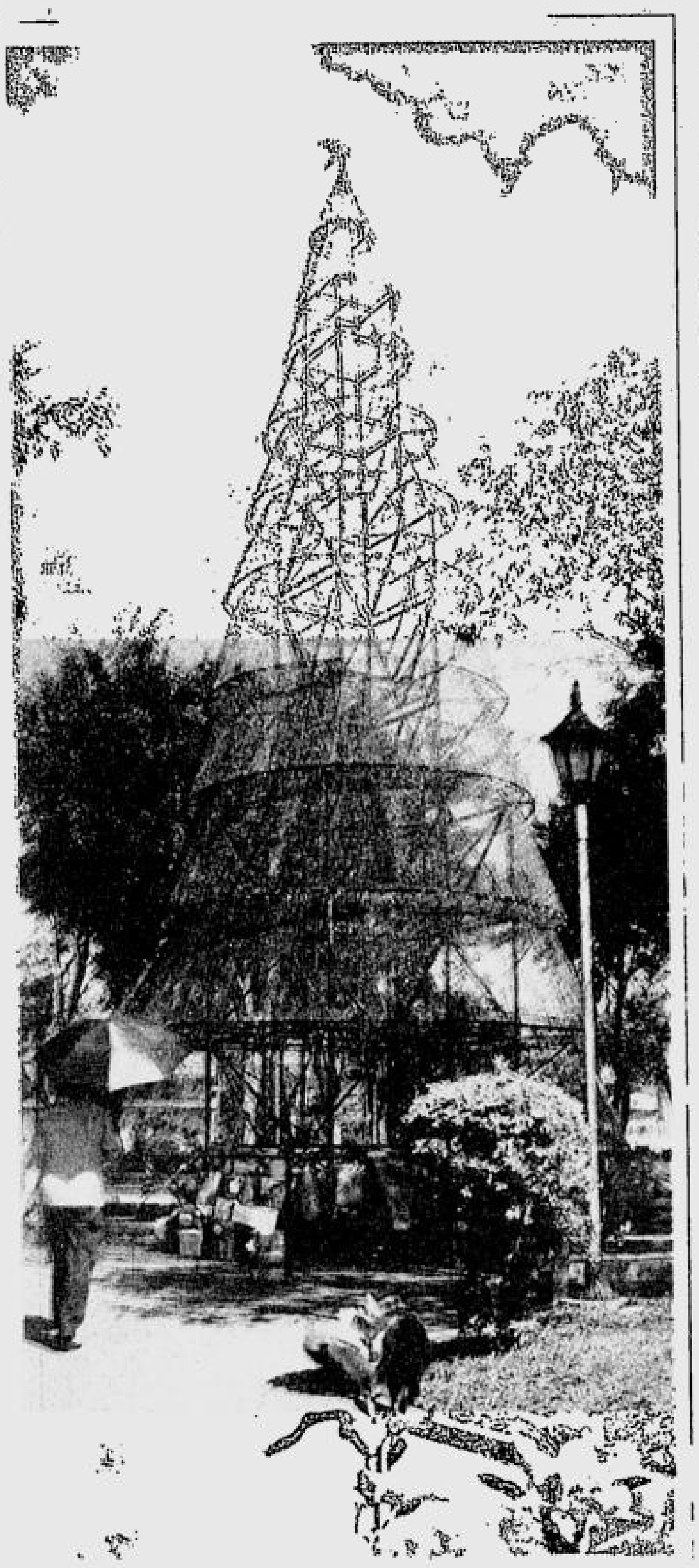
"The sons and daughters make a big show about condemning the practice but they share in the rice and products the elderly bring home from begging in Metro Manila," she said.

Ramos said DSWD had tried to address this phenomenon by undertaking a community shame campaign.

"We even posted signs warning people not to give to the beggars, but the human rights sector felt that it (violated) their rights," she said.

The government's response to indigenous Filipino beggars is short-term because it fails to detect the cultural deterioration involved in the problem, she added.

"Old Igorot women are never expected to forget their cultural values, but we have Igorot carolers now who play gongs in violation of old ritual practices. They try to circumvent that by playing tin cans instead of authentic gongs, but they still wear traditional g-strings to attract attention," she said.



ONE OF A KIND NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

This Christmas tree made of steel, about 15 meters high and the only one of its kind in Bicol, is adorned with 65,000 multicolored lights.

Cebu bishop stops holding pre-dawn Mass

CEBU CITY—For the first time in 18 years, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal will not be officiating his traditional *Misa de Gallo* or pre-Christmas dawn Masses in the various parishes in the province.

Msgr. Achilles Dakay, the media liaison officer of the Cebu Archdiocese, said the prelate was advised by his doctor to take a rest so that he could fully recover from the angioplasty surgery that he went through recently in Manila.

Cardinal Vidal had been officiating Misa de Gallo to different parishes for each day of the dawn Masses held nine days prior to the Christmas eve Mass.

The prelate had usually been holding the Misa de Gallo in parishes outside of Metro Cebu—traveling from one town to the next for nine days.

Dakay said Vidal had been doing this since 1986, a year after he became a cardinal in 1985.

As to parishes who wanted to have the prelate officiate their dawn Mass, Dakay said they would send one of the archdiocese's three other bishops—Bishop Julito Cortes of Sto. Rosario Parish in Cebu City, Bishop Emilio Bataclan of Carcar and Bishop Vicente Manuel of Casuntingan, Mandaue City.

Dakay said Vidal would still be observing the dawn Masses at the archbishop residence here.

Vidal flew to Manila on Nov. 25 to undergo angioplasty, a procedure that unclogs the heart's arteries.

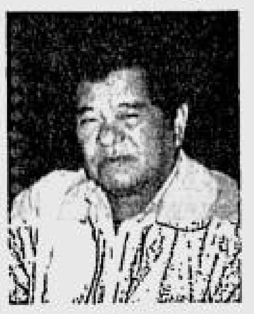
Dakay said the operation was conducted last Saturday at the Chinese General Hospital and it was very successful. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Filipino
Indian
Chinese
Japanese
American
Korean
METRO
MARKET!MARKET!
Metro Supermarket at Market! Market! Bonifacio Global City.

Prepare for flash floods, Quezon execs advised

ROUNDUP

Muslim pilgrimage



COTABATO CITY—Malacañang has named Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan Sr. as Presidential Representative to the *hajj* (pilgrimage) journey to the Saudi Arabian cities of Mecca and Madina on the first week of January. Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong hand-carried Thursday to Ampatuan a memorandum signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, designating him "Presidential Representative to the 2005 Hajj Pilgrimage." The President also named Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin as *Amirul Hajj* or leader of Filipino pilgrims. Despite economic difficulties, thousands of Muslim Filipinos are expected to join the *hajj*, which has rituals for repentance and self atonement.

Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Village watchman slain

BANGUED, Abra—A barangay tanod (village watchman) was killed while his companion was wounded on Monday when they were attacked by a lone gunman in La Paz town. Police said Rening Ola, 44, died instantly while his companion, Feliza Ola, 66, was taken to the Abra Provincial Hospital. The gunman escaped.

Artha Kira Paredes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Solcom denies shooting

LUCENA CITY—Southern Luzon Unified Command chief Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay denied that government soldiers were behind the shooting of an activist during a Human Rights Day rally on Dec. 10 in Daet, Camarines Norte. Edmundo Salcedo was killed during the incident, which also wounded four people, including two children. Cabuay formed a fact-finding committee and named Brig. Gen. Ramon Santos, Solcom's deputy commander, to head it.

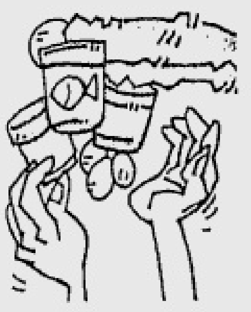
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mindoro gov buried

CITY OF CALAPAN—Thousands of people joined the funeral of Oriental Mindoro Gov. Bartolome Marasigan Sr., at the Calapan Memorial Ground on Dec. 9. He died of lung cancer and pneumonia on Dec. 1 at the St. Luke's Hospital. From the Jose Leido Jr. Memorial National High School, the remains of the governor was brought to the provincial capitol. Bartolome's casket was pulled by a carabao, symbolic of his campaign slogan, "Gobernador ng Maralita."

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Relief for Mangyans



CITY OF CALAPAN—More than 1,450 packs of assorted goods were distributed to victims of Typhoon "Unding" among the Mangyans in Bait, Panaytayan in Mansalay and residents in Barangays Mabuhay, Uyao and Camatigue in Roxas town, all of Oriental Mindoro on Sunday. The goods were collected from the 4-day telethon called Oplan Sagip Bayan, Sagip Panlalawigan on TVNet immediately after the calamity that left thousands homeless. The program was coordinated by the provincial government and cause-oriented groups and individuals.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Relief goods sent

CLOSE to 40,000 families in typhoon-ravaged areas of Quezon, Aurora, Nueva Ecija and the Camarines provinces have benefited from the disaster response that San Miguel Corp. (SMC) immediately launched following the government's call for relief assistance in areas ravaged by several typhoons recently, according to a news release. Less than 24 hours after Yoyong made a landfall in Aurora, SMC mobilized its resources to distribute about 25,000 boxes of four- and six-liter of distilled water and 4,300 boxes of corned beef in pouches and in cans. "We were moved by reports from our field personnel that many of the typhoon victims have not eaten for days and sorely lack potable drinking water," said Camille Buenaventura, SMC Social Development manager. The relief goods were sent through ABS-CBN, GMA 7 and ABC-5.

Hot logs seized

COTABATO CITY—Forest rangers and the military seized suspected illegally cut logs during a joint operation on Dec. 14 in a remote village in Matanog, Maguindanao, officials said. The logs, numbering about 2,122, were abandoned near the boundary of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, according to Hadji Kahal Kedtag, Maguindanao's first district community environment and natural resources officer (Cenro). No one was arrested in the early morning raid, which Kedtag and Col. Feliciano Hernandez of the 64th Infantry Battalion, led. Kedtag said this was his office's biggest apprehension in the region, "since the ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) came into existence in 1989."

Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau

M. Balbin; 21

BAGUIO CITY—Melody Balbin, 21, younger sister of INQUIRER Ilocos Sur correspondent Leoncio Balbin Jr., died of bacterial infection in the brain on Dec. 13 at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center. Her body lies at the family home in Candon City. Interment will be announced later.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Be prepared for flash floods and landslides, a Pampanga-based non-government organization and veteran of lahar-disaster management advised local government officials in calamity-stricken Quezon towns.

Eugene Orejas, executive director of the Central Luzon Center for Emergency Aid and Rehabilitation (Concern), called on government officials of Real, Infanta and General Nakar to establish flash floods and watch points in the upstream of the rivers.

Orejas said the monitoring posts should be equipped with communications facilities with enough warning systems to prevent the loss of lives should there be a repeat of similar tragedies that struck the areas more than two weeks ago.

Orejas and his group formed "Oplan Sagip Bayan" that stayed in north Quezon last week and distributed relief goods among Dumagat natives.

He said they were in Infanta on Friday when panic swept the town from rumors of overflowing Agus River.

"You just can't leave the residents to fend for themselves every time calamity strikes," he said over the phone.

His group formed grassroots-based disaster response organizations among the Dumagats that would draft a disaster preparedness plan, he said.

"The local governments should formulate a similar plan for the entire locality especially along the areas that are prone to disasters," Orejas said.

The Mt. Pinatubo explosion in 1991 left lessons from which Central Luzon residents and local government officials could build on to save lives and properties, he said.

"Like lahar, landslides are triggered by strong rains."

Both landslides and flash floods could recur in an area with the denuded condition of Sierra Madre, he said. "There is no reason to be complacent."

He added: "The Mt. Pinatubo experience showed that no or fewer lives would be wasted or maimed when people are prepared. The same experience also showed that risks are greatly reduced when people get the correct information in time to get out of harm's way."

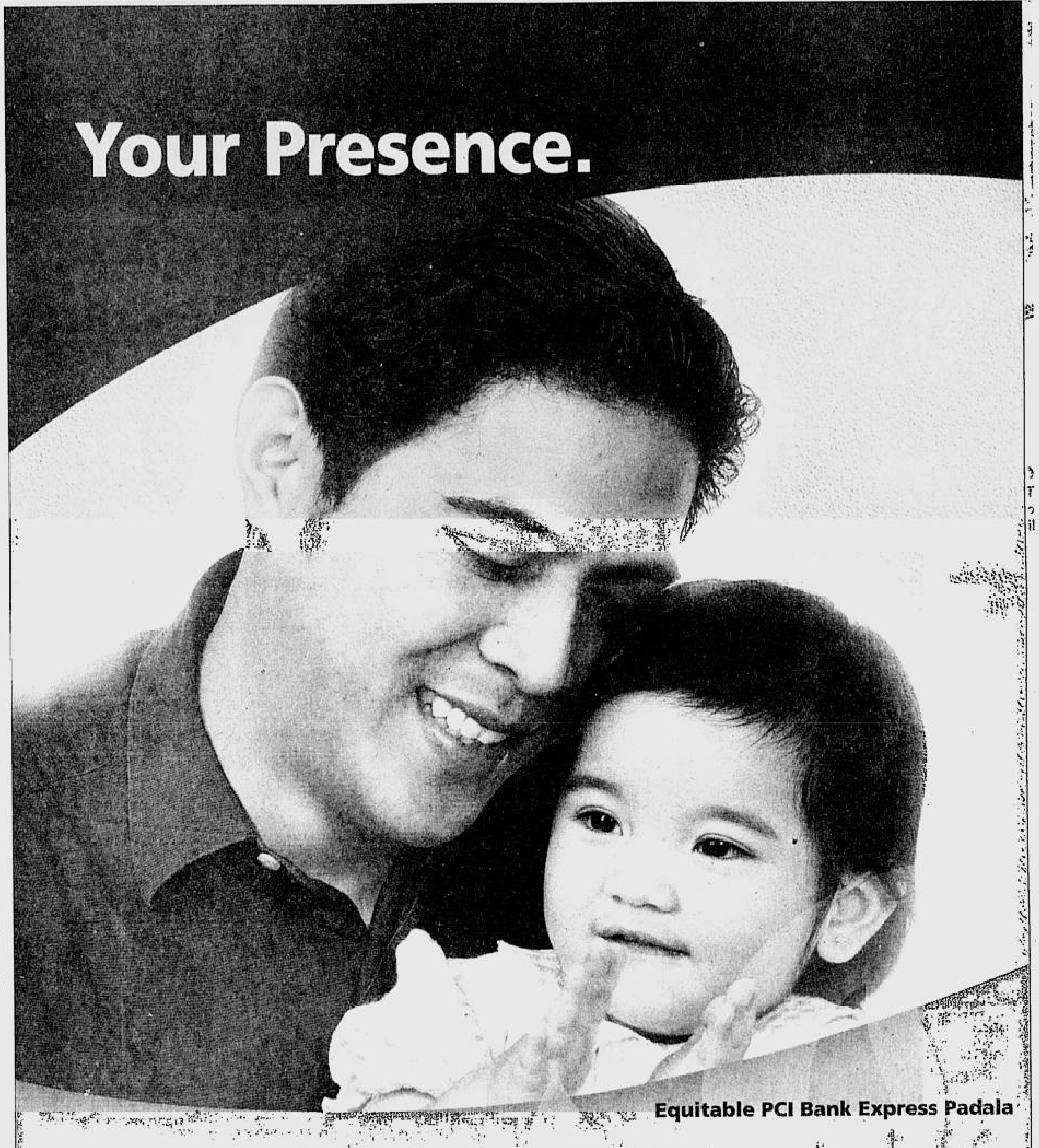
Their experience also showed that the vulnerability of the people are greatly reduced if local government officials exercise leadership in disaster management and mitigation.

"Like in Mt. Pinatubo, the Oplan Sagip Bayan strongly urged local officials in northern Quezon to identify the villages that are high risk to floods and landslides and relocate the residents.

As the relocation is being done, Orejas said the rehabilitation of farms and fishing grounds should also start to help calamity victims cope fast with the disaster. "Making the victims rely on relief goods for a long time will only create a sense of dependence," he said.

And because rehabilitation work entails so much resources that are beyond the local government's capacity, Orejas advised that it would be wise for the national government to direct rehabilitation funds to local government units, and non-government and people's organizations.

"The local government unit in turn should maximize resources and not allow any form of corruption of precious public funds," Orejas said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*


Your Presence.
Equitable PCI Bank Express Padala

At Equitable PCI Bank, we bring your loved ones working abroad closer to home. Because we give them the means to continue providing for your family.

With Equitable PCI Bank Express Padala, your loved ones can express their love and care for you through Express Padala and Express Regalo Remittance products. It almost feels like they never went abroad.

Equitable PCI Bank Express Padala. Just one of the many reasons that make banking with us a most pleasant experience every time. Because all we do is all for you to be your Bank of Choice.

Equitable PCI BANK
Your Bank of Choice

Contact our Call Center at 84-911 (Metro Manila)
PLDT 1-800-188-84-911 and Digitel 1-800-333-84-911 (Provincial)
visit www.equitablepcib.com

54 Years

PLUS MEGALINK Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.

SUERTRES 6 8 1
(In exact order)
EZ2 28 3

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
7 17 19 22 39 46

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

SWEEPSTAKES
1 3 5 4 5 0 P

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

2 suspects in killing of Dolphy grandson arrested

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE have arrested two suspects in the killing of Jelom Carlo Quizon, grandson of comedy king Dolphy.

The suspects: Jerome Flores, 23, and Alger Magdaraog, 21, however, denied allegations that they were among five young men who shot Quizon Saturday.

Quizon, 14, died of a gunshot wound in the abdomen after assailants on a tricycle opened fire at him and his two friends in Barangay La Loma at about 5:30 a.m.

His two friends were wounded in the incident but have been reportedly declared out of danger.

Members of the Central Police District (CPD) Station 1 in La Loma arrested Flores Saturday afternoon in Caloocan City after a witness tagged him as among the suspects.

Police later arrested Magdaraog when the latter went to the police station to visit Flores.

CPD Director Nicasio Radovan told the INQUIRER that a witness positively identified the two as among the five suspects who attacked Quizon's group.

Flores and Magdaraog admitted that they were members of the True Brown Style group, a self-styled street gang in La Loma and Caloocan City.

Quizon, the two said, was a member of their rival group Temple Street Trece.

However, they denied they were among those who shot Quizon.

Flores said he was at home sleeping at the time of the attack because he was drunk the night before.

Magdaraog said he did not know Quizon personally.

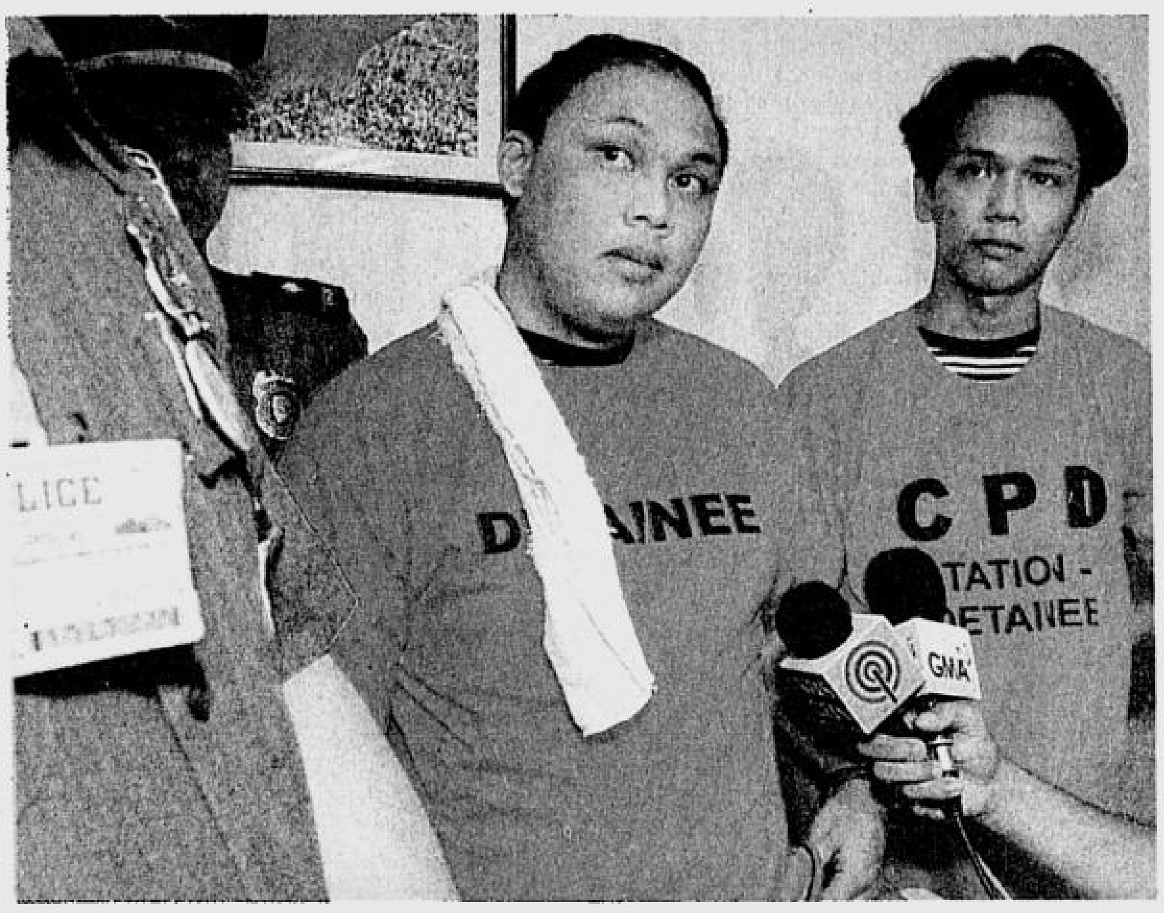
A day after the killing of Quizon, another teener was slain in a gang war in Manila.

Randel Tanjeco of Batangas Line, San Andres Bukid, Manila, was shot after his gang clashed with a rival group on Pedro Gil Street in Paco at 5:50 a.m.

Police said the two groups were first reported to have engaged in a stone-throwing incident before someone fired a homemade shotgun.

Tanjeco was hit with three pellets in the chest and arm.

Both gangs had just attended Dawn Mass at the Paco Catholic Church. *With Tarra Quismundo*



'WE DIDN'T do it.' Jerome Flores (left) and Alger Magdaraog, the two suspects in the shooting and killing of Dolphy grandson Jelom Carlo Quizon, are presented to media after their arrest Saturday afternoon.

RUDY ESPERAS

Filmfest to go on despite Poe death

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE SHOW must go on.

Despite the recent death of actor Fernando Poe Jr., Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando said there was no reason for it to affect the holding of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) this year.

"We are even looking for a higher income this year," Fernando, also the MMFF chair, said in a phone interview.

He declared, "The movies are improving in terms of quality and entertainment."

Fernando stressed that since he became MMDA and MMFF chair three years ago, the film festival's income had been improving.

"The festival earned P350 million last year and we are looking at earning half a billion this year," the MMDA chair said.

Fernando said the MMFF Parade of Stars would be held as scheduled on Dec. 24, with the festival's eight floats passing through White Plains via Edsa, Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon Avenue, Magsaysay Boulevard, Nagtahan, Pres. Quirino Avenue, Roxas Boulevard, to Aliw Theater at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex.

The MMDA-Traffic Operations Center will deploy 162 traffic personnel, including 26 motorcycle escorts.

The MMDA-Traffic Enforcement Group and the National Capital Region Police Office, on the other hand, will deploy 240 traffic officers for crowd control.

Poe, known as the King of Philippine Movies, had been a key figure in past MMFFs with his movies, especially that of the "Ang Panday" series.

Drug laboratory suspect escapes

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINE Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) is on the spot, again.

After it was blamed for the dismissal of charges against two Chinese men caught allegedly operating an illegal drugs laboratory inside the Multinational Village in Parañaque City last year, the PDEA has lost another suspect in a similar raid last November.

Li Zhong Hong, alias James Mian, who was arrested last month in another alleged drug laboratory in Multinational Village, escaped from his detention cell at the ground floor of the PDEA Metro Manila Regional Office in Quezon City.

A PDEA report said Li escaped by destroying the grill cover of the exhaust fan in his cell.

But PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido Jr. himself said yesterday that he found the report incredible.

"It's a very mysterious escape," he said in a radio interview. "It's very likely that someone from the PDEA helped him escape through the gate."

Avenido said he was so angry over the escape that he kept PO1 Frederick Placido, the lone guard watching the PDEA cell that time, in the cell where Li had stayed.

He also placed under technical arrest Chief Insp. Dante Gacadan, officer in charge of the PDEA custodial group, and PO2 Rolando Duazo, the other guard who was supposed to be on duty during the escape.

Li was no ordinary detainee.

Suspected of working for a big-time drug ring, he was arrested at the alleged shabu laboratory on Nazareth Street, Multinational Village, last month.

The house yielded a huge volume of chemicals used in manufacturing high-grade shabu. Some of the ingredients were subsequently destroyed by a fire that mysteriously gutted the storehouse where they had been placed for safekeeping.

PO3 Reynaldo Arojado discovered that Li was missing at 5:45 p.m.

An ocular inspection of Li's detention cell showed that the horizontal steel bar covering a small exhaust fan had been sawed off.

But assuming that Li could possibly fit his 5-foot-6 frame at the small opening, the route would have been "hazardous," Avenido said in a statement.

"If the escapee used this, he could (have been) seriously injured because he would be jumping a height equivalent to three stories."

A second angle, that Li had connived with a PDEA man, got a boost from Joy Acuin, night-shift guard at the parking area.

Acuin said he was inspecting the area at about 3 a.m. when he noticed a "slender male person" who appeared to have been "waiting for somebody" while standing near a car parked in front of the PDEA headquarters.

"He did not bother to check or confront the person because he thought he was a PDEA personnel," Avenido said. "But it is possible that the person could be the detainee who might have slipped through the door while the guard was asleep."

Filipino invention goes global

DISTRIBUTORS from six nations have taken interest in a Filipino gas saving device and have signed contracts to sell the gadget in their respective countries.

Representatives from Gasgadget SL (Spain), PT Era Setia Abadi (Indonesia), Carnot Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (Marianas Islands), Harish J. Jadwani (India), NIAF AL RAJHI EST FOR TRADING (Saudi Arabia), and VL Khaos (Oceania) Pty. Ltd. (Australia) recently signed a contract for the sale of the Khaos Super Turbocharger in their countries.

The contract signing was held at the Inventionhaus International Corporation (IIC) Head Office at the President's Tower, Timog Avenue, Quezon City. IIC manufactures the gas-saving device invented by jeepney driver-turned-inventor Pablo Planas.

In a statement, Isko Catibayan, ICC vice president for sales, said that with the setting up of six installation sites and 78 dealerships covering the whole Philippines, the company was now focused on expanding internationally.

Khaos is an instrument attached to a gasoline engine. Its makers say the gadget facilitates gas savings by controlling the mixture of air and fuel, resulting in optimal efficiency.

Tests conducted by the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Energy and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources showed savings of 15 to 50 percent of gasoline consumption for car engines with Khaos.

Also, harmful emissions were greatly lessened after the gadget was installed in the test engines.

Catibayan has disclosed that they were currently working on a device for diesel engines.

SANTA bear keeps Migui company at the hospital.

JOSEPH AGCAOILI

3-years-old and fighting leukemia

By Jerry Esplanada

THIS Christmas, Ma. Carmela Hombrebueno, a single parent from Taguig, is hoping for a miracle for Miguel Angelo, the youngest of her four children.

"Migui," who is only 3 years old, is afflicted with JMML, a rare form of leukemia.

The young boy has only nine to 12 months to live—"even earlier if he fails to undergo a much-needed bone marrow transplant," his attending physician at the Medical City hospital in Pasig City had told his mom.

Cure for JMML, short for juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia, is not common, according to the White Plains, New York-based Leukemia and Lymphoma Society or LSS.

The disease has been "resistant to chemotherapy. Improvement in survival occurs after a stem cell transplantation from a compatible sibling.

"The median survival of patients with JMML is usually less than two years," said an LSS fact sheet obtained by Hombrebueno.

Despite the scant reasons for hope, Hombrebueno is not giving up.

"A miracle is always possible. I've been praying for one since Migui was hospitalized Nov. 24," said the executive secretary of the construction firm First Balfour.

Hombrebueno has learned from Dr. Vincent Aba, Migui's pediatrician, that "getting a compatible donor (for the bone marrow transplant) isn't easy."

"The transplant (preferably from a sibling) was the suggested treatment. It's not the cure, but it could prolong my son's life," she said.

Migui has a sister, Mica, who is 15, and two older brothers, Ian and Hans, who are 12 and 10.

"But it's not a sure thing. If we fail to get a match, we'll have to seek the help of St. Luke's Medical Center, which normally does out-of-country search for bone marrow donors," said Hombrebueno.

Here, only St. Luke's and the Asian hospital, both in Metro Manila, conduct bone marrow transplants.

When interviewed, Hombrebueno confided that Migui's treatment had depleted her savings.

Chemotherapy drugs cost P10,000 to P15,000 per treatment. Migui has just started his first chemotherapy session which lasts for five days. The next session follows after 28 days.

Soon, the Hombrebuenos will need to spend at least P45,000 per session of the more "aggressive" chemo treatments.

According to the LLS fact sheet furnished to the INQUIRER, "infants with JMML fail to thrive."

"Enlargement of the liver may occur while enlargement of the spleen occurs in virtually every case," it said.

Both Migui's liver and spleen are already infected, his mother disclosed as she also showed the kid's bloated belly.

JMML "represents about 1.5 percent of childhood leukemias. It occurs most often in infants and children under 4 years of age.

"The blood cell and bone marrow findings are similar in some respects to adult chronic myelomonocytic leukemia. Both disorders are cancers that originate in a marrow cell that normally functions to form blood cells."

Migui was in a bad mood during our recent visit. Apparently irritated and in pain, he kept on tossing and turning in his hospital bed.

But to everybody's surprise, the kid soon relaxed, cuddled his toy "Santa bear" and gamely posed for several shots taken by INQUIRER photographer Joseph Agcaoili.

"We hope he'd be able to beat the tough odds and Migui's remarkable recovery begins real soon. Let's all hope and pray for a miracle," Hombrebueno told us while we were about to leave the boy's room.

Choosy cabbies? Here are tips from the Manila police

By Leila B. Salaverria

WITH most people storming malls and commercial centers this Christmas, the demand for taxis will certainly be high.

However, as in the experience of many cab-riders in recent years, some taxi drivers may take to choosing their passengers.

Some may even refuse to convey commuters to places which they perceived to be choked in traffic.

And when these cabbies do agree to drive passengers to "impossible" places, some drivers may do it in exchange for an illegally charged fee.

Sen. Manny Villar, chair of the Senate committee on public order, said these practices should be stopped.

The senator explained that these practices defeat the purpose of the existence of taxis, which is to provide quick, available and convenient means of transportation.

But commuters need not be victimized by such drivers.

They can ask the police for help against abusive drivers and there are complaints they can file, said Supt. Arturo Paglinawan, General Assignment Section chief of the Western Police District.

Paglinawan said that when a taxi driver rejected a passenger on unreasonable grounds, the passenger could call the attention of any nearby policeman or traffic enforcer and ask him to accost the driver or to issue him a traffic violation ticket.

If no policemen is nearby, the passenger can take down the taxi's name and plate number and go to the police.

"The passenger can file a complaint of refusing to convey a passenger against the driver. That is a crime," he said.

Paglinawan said the practice of not using the meter and asking for a specific fare, known as "pagkokontrata," could also be used as a basis for a complaint because it would be tantamount to refusing to convey a passenger.

He added that though the corresponding penalty for such an offense was light, at least it would teach the driver a lesson.

Paglinawan said the police could forward the said complaint to the Land Transportation Office, which would, in turn, impose administrative sanctions like the suspension of the driver's license.

But he said the passenger must be willing to file and pursue the complaint so that the erring driver would change his ways.

Report: 17 gov't Metro offices reek of formalin gas

By Blanche S. Rivera

NEXT time you visit your local registry of deeds and smell something like formaldehyde, you're probably right.

A study by the Occupational Safety and Health Center revealed that there is a very high concentration of formaldehyde in Metro Manila's 17 local government units.

An unacceptable amount of formaldehyde—the liquid form of which is commonly known as formalin and is used in preserving human remains—was found in the engineering departments, local registry and treasury offices of 25 of 51 city government agencies covered by the OSHC study.

In a report to Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson, the OSHC said that 10 treasury offices, nine local civil registry and six engineering departments in Metro Manila have exceeded the threshold limit value (TLV) for formaldehyde.

"A possible explanation for this is that 47 percent of the buildings which were subjects of the study were constructed within the past five years and, thus, can be classified as 'new' with new furnishings," the OSHC report said.

The report did not identify the local governments, but Imson said that the local chief executives had responded positively to the report and assured that they would make the necessary adjustments.

Open to public

"These offices are often visited by the public, have greater number of employees and bulk of files, and (hosts) voluminous transaction with clients," Imson said in a statement.

Formaldehyde, which is commonly known as an embalming chemical, is also an important industrial chemical used in building materials and household products. It is often used as an ingredient of glue or adhesive in pressed wood products such as hardwood plywood, and as preservatives in some paints, coatings and cosmetics.

Most newly furnished offices or houses have a higher than acceptable concentration of formaldehyde, especially if the furnishings have not been adequately aerated.

The gas given off by the formaldehyde can cause nose and throat nausea, watery and burning sensation in the eyes, coughing, skin rashes and other allergic reactions caused by contact with furnishings with formaldehyde, the OSHC said.

The OSHC, an agency attached to the Department of Labor and Employment, just completed the yearlong study covering all 17 local governments of Metro Manila.

Imson said the study was done in compliance with the Civil Service Commission directive setting the acceptable working conditions for government offices, including the provision of sufficient ventilation, clean toilets, potable drinking water and first aid facilities.

Of the 49 offices studied, only 76 percent met the standard for thermal comfort, while only around 32 percent met the minimum requirement for office illumination.

BAD MISS REM ZAMORA

Tollway employees clear the debris caused by a Dasmariñas, Cavite-bound Jasper Liner bus that rammed a booth of the Coastal Road toll plaza after missing the toll lane at about 8:30 a.m. Sunday. No one was seriously hurt in the incident.

Group targets abused women

JUSTICE Leonor Ines Luciano has been reelected chair of the International Social Service-Philippines (ISS Phil.) Inc. during the organization's 1st Annual General Assembly recently.

Judge Aurora N. Reciña was elected president. Elected vice president for external affairs was Lourdes Casas Quezon; VP for internal affairs, Paz U. de Guzman; secretary, Marilyn F. Manuel; assistant secretary, Rubin Z. Magno; treasurer, Leonida B. Ortiz; assistant treasurer, Flor Pauline L. Duran; auditor, Zenaida P. Reyes.

The ISS strategic direction for 2005-2006 focuses on services to disadvantaged women and children.

Specifically, its services would center on battling the trafficking of women in Hongkong and Japan, repatriation, temporary shelter, rein tegration, helping stateless children in Japan and abused children and serving expatriate-community and foreign nationals.

UE kicks off nat'l writing tilt

AMID reports that the country's students are lagging behind in science and technology, the University of the East has launched the 1st University of the East Sci-Tech Essay Writing Contest.

The contest forms part of UE's efforts to tap the science and technology potential of young Filipinos in the 21st century. The university is in the process of re-engineering itself to make all its course offerings more relevant to the needs of the knowledge society.

Open nationwide to fourth year high school students who are graduating in March 2005, the writing tilt's goal is to foster a deeper appreciation for science and technology among Filipino youth.

Interested parties will discuss "The Importance of Science and Technology Education" in an article.

UE will consider only entries that are original, written in English, 1,000 to 1,500 words in length, unpublished, typewritten and double-spaced.

To qualify, students must fill up and submit an entry form available at the Office of the Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, with contact numbers 735-8539 and 735-5471 to 82 locals 368 and 369.

All entries should bear a separate page indicating the contestant's full name, contact numbers, address, school and school address.

Each high school may field a maximum of two contestants. Only one entry per person will be accepted.

Deadline for submission of essays is Feb. 15, 2005. Entries may be e-mailed as an attachment to ue@educ.com.ph, or mailed to the attention of Ms. Carmelita S. Flores, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of the East, 2219 Claro M. Recto Avenue, Manila.

Entries will be judged based on substance and originality of thinking (40 percent), writing style (20 percent), grammar, and composition (20 percent) and organization (20 percent).

Renowned Filipino physicist and UE vice president for Academic Affairs Dr. Roger D. Posadas and two other scientists form the panel of judges that will evaluate entries.

A four-year scholarship (subject to the maintenance each semester of a 1.75 grade point average) to UE for any of its science and technology-related programs awaits the winner.

The scholarship covers free full tuition and other fees, book allowance, uniform subsidy, a transportation allowance, as well as a monthly stipend.

Mandaluyong streets opened to vendors

By Ruth L. Navarra

MANDALUYONG City has given its vendors a reprieve for the holidays by allowing them to ply their wares on the streets for the holidays.

Mayor Neptali Gonzales II has allowed the vendors to sell on designated areas in Kalentong, Panaderos and San Roque Streets for Christmas.

But starting January, they will transfer the vendors permanently on San Roque Street where the city will provide them with their own stalls.

"It is part of our plan to have a flea market on that street," Gonzales said. He explained that they chose San Roque because motorists rarely use this road and therefore will not affect the traffic.

The street is a small road that connects Panaderos and Kalentong Streets.

The vendors, in turn, are required to pay a daily fee to the city.

The amount will still be determined by the city treasurer.

The vending activities will be strictly monitored by the Task Force Anti-Sidewalk, said its chief, Rannie De Leon. The maintenance will also entail the regular collection of garbage.

The vendors will have a representative in the coordinating team that will monitor the vending activities.

Cops offer gift of self this Xmas

By Tarra V. Quismundo

SERVICE first before family.

Manila policemen keep this in mind year after year, as they spend Christmas Day on the job. But they have become used to it, remaining true to the oath they had taken on the day they got their badges.

"We follow our usual routine on Christmas Day, just like any other day. It's part of the job," said SPO2 Patrick de Leon, in service for 17 years now.

Unlike others who take days off from work to celebrate Christmas with family and friends, de Leon and other men in uniform dutifully attend to their jobs on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, sacrificing the traditional celebration with their families.

Family understands

"My family understands, and they're already used to it. Besides, this is where we get our income, what we live on," said the 40-year-old homicide investigator, speaking in Filipino.

Since he was 23 years old, de Leon has been with the police force, raising his three kids with his modest earnings. Every Christmas Day, he would snatch what little time he had to share a Christmas meal with his stay-at-home wife and his three girls in their Parañaque home, and, if possible, attend mass.

But, as in the past, such extra time might be hard to come by for lawmen like de Leon this Christmas, as the Western Police District (WPD) has been placed on code red, a holiday color but for the police means strict attendance, no days off, and all out patrols.

"Every holiday like Christmas, New Year, Holy Week, All Saint's Day, we are on the streets even more, because that's when there are more people on the streets, that's when we are needed more," said WPD Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong.

Part of oath

"We serve first above all. When we took our oaths, we never mentioned our families right? But we are used to it. Besides, nobody forced us to become policemen," Bulaong added.

For PO3 Alberto de Guzman, 39, a radio control dispatcher assigned at the District Tactical Operations Center who has been in the force for 12 years, such sentiment rang the truth.

"Sometimes you have to divide your time, but mostly during Christmas you spend more time in service than with your family. At most, I could spend two to three hours with them on Christmas," said de Guzman, who works in the WPD's nerve center, receiving and dispatching all reported crime incidents and events in Manila.

AQUASOFT WATER SYSTEMS, INC.
PRESS CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 1, 2004
Training Room
Ms. Christine Bersola - Babao
Official Product Endorser

AQUASOFT PURIFIED DRINKING WATER formally introduces **Ms. Christine Bersola-Babao** as their newest product endorser. The Press Conference held last December 1, 2004 at ATT Training Room.
Ms. Christine Bersola Babao and ATT- Aqua Treatment Technology President, Hope Q. Lee
flanked by (from L to R) Mr. Eric Sales, (Vice-President for Sales),
Ms. Tess Gonzales (Senior Vice-President for Sales), and Executives Vice- President of
ATT-Group of Companies: Ms. Evangeline Esquillona, Ms. Nanny Papa,
Ms. Diane Garcia, Ms. Ma. Rosario M. Lumbis and Mr. Antonio Montenegro (Vice-President for Sales).

The Seat of Excellence in Technical Education

Meralco Foundation Institute

Technical Training and Certification Program

JAS-ANZ
ISO 9001:2000

SCHEDULE of Orientation and FREE Seminars for Batch 1 & 2

Career Orientation (Instrumentation .... Feb. 22
Entrepreneurial Appreciation .... Feb. 23
Personal Enhancement .... Feb. 24

TIME: 5:30 PM
VENUE: Audio Visual Room

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Office 2000 (MSWord, MSExcel, MSPowerPoint) P6,000/48hrs	1.30-4.30	M-Th	Jan17-Feb10
	1.30-4.30	M-Th	Feb14-Mar10
	6.00-9.00	MWF	Feb14-Mar21
	9.00-6.00	Sat	Feb19-Mar25
Program Logic Formulation P5,000/30hrs	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Jan10-Jan15
	1.30-4.30	M-Th	Jan10-Jan25
	9.00-4.00	Fri	Jan14-Feb11
	3.30-6.30	Sat	Jan15-Feb19
Web Page Designing Using Dreamweaver P6,000/30hrs	3.30-6.30	Sat	Jan08-Feb12
	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Feb24-Mar01
	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Jan17-Feb01
	3.30-6.30	Sat	Feb26-Mar26
Developing Web Animation using Flash P6,000/30hrs	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Jan17-Feb01
	6.00-9.00	M-Th	Jan17-Feb01
	8.00-3.00	Sat	Jan15-Feb12
Macromedia Flash Action Script P5,000/30hrs	6.00-9.00	M-Th	Feb14-Mar01
	8.00-3.00	Sat	Feb05-Mar19
Visual Basic Net Fundamentals P8,500/45hrs	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Jan10-Jan28
	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Feb07-Mar07
	8.00-3.00	Sat	Feb05-Mar26
Programming in C++ P6,500/36hrs	5.30-8.30	M-Th	Jan10-Jan28
	8.00-3.00	Sat	Jan15-Feb19
	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Jan31-Feb17
	1.30-4.30	M-Th	Jan31-Feb17
Object Oriented Programming in C++ P6,500/36hrs	5.30-8.30	M-Th	Jan31-Feb17
JAVA Programming Fundamentals P7,500/42hrs	1.30-4.30	M-Th	Jan10-Jan17
	6.00-9.00	M-Th	Jan10-Jan17
	3.30-9.30	Sat	Jan15-Feb26
	3.30-9.30	Sat	Jan15-Feb26
Developing Applications in JAVA P7,500/42hrs	9.00-12.00	M-F	Jan10-Jan27
	1.30-4.30	M-F	Feb07-Mar01
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb07-Mar01
Designing and Building Enterprise Application using J2 EE P12,000/45hrs	8.00-3.00	Sat	Feb05-Mar26
Developing and Implementing Web-Based Applications with Microsoft Visual Net P15,000/60hrs	9.00-4.00	Sun	Jan16-Mar20
	3.30-9.30	Sat	Feb05-Apr09
Developing Web Application Using Java Server Pages (JSP) P8,000/36hrs	6.00-9.00	M-Th	Jan17-Feb03
Introduction to Oracle 9i SQL P10,000/48hrs	6.00-5.00	Fri	Jan21-Feb25
	3.30-6.30	Sat	Jan29-Mar19
	1.00-5.00	Sat	Jan24-Feb19
Oracle 9i Database Administrator Fundamentals P12,000/48hrs	6.00-9.00	T&Th	Jan18-Mar24

AUTOMOTIVE/RAC

Basic Driving Course P6,000/15hrs	8.00-12.00	M-F	Feb07-Feb10
	8.00-12.00	M-F	Feb14-Feb17
	1.00-5.00	M-F	Feb21-Feb24
	1.00-5.00	Sat	Feb26-Mar19
	8.00-12.00	M-F	Mar28-Mar31
Auto Engine Electrical P3,000/42hrs	9.00-12.00	M-F	Jan17-Feb03
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb26
	9.00-12.00	M-F	Feb28-Mar17
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-Mar17
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar12-Apr16
Auto Body Electrical P3,600/48hrs	9.00-12.00	M-F	Jan17-Feb07
	2.00-5.00	M-F	Jan17-Feb07
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Feb07
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb26
	2.00-5.00	M-F	Feb28-Mar21
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-Mar21
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar12-Apr16
Gas Engine Mechanic P4,200/50hrs	9.00-12.00	M-F	Jan17-Feb11
	2.00-5.00	M-F	Jan17-Feb11
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Mar12
	9.00-12.00	M-F	Feb28-Mar25
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-Mar25
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar12-Apr30
Diesel Engine Mechanic P4,200/60hrs	2.00-5.00	M-F	Jan17-Feb11
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Feb11
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Mar12
	2.00-5.00	M-F	Feb28-Mar25
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-Mar25
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar12-Apr30
Basic Car Maintenance P2,800/30hrs	2.00-5.00	M-F	Jan17-Feb07
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb12
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Feb19-Mar12
	2.00-5.00	M-F	Feb28-Mar11
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar12-Apr02
Electronic Fuel Injection Servicing P4,200/45hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Feb07
	9.00-12.00	M-F	Feb28-Mar21
Underchassis Mechanic P3,900/60hrs	2.00-5.00	M-F	Feb28-Mar25
Refrigeration and Aircon Mechanic P4,500/60hrs	9.00-12.00	M-F	Jan17-Feb11
	2.00-5.00	M-F	Jan17-Feb11
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Feb11
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Mar12
	8.00-5.00	Sun	Jan23-Mar20
	9.00-12.00	M-F	Feb28-Mar25
	2.00-5.00	M-F	Feb28-Mar25
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-Mar25
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar12-Apr30

APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES

Enhancing Comm. Skills P3,500/21hrs	9.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb05
	9.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Mar19
Creating Preventive Maintenance Systems P3,500/21hrs	9.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb05
	9.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Mar19

ELECTRONICS

Basic Electronics P4,500/56hrs	8.00-12.00	M-Th	Jan17-Jan31
	8.00-12.00	M-Th	Feb07-Feb21
	1.00-5.00	M-Th	Jan17-Jan31
	1.00-5.00	M-Th	Feb07-Feb21
	5.30-8.30	M-Th	Jan17-Feb03
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb19
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb19
	8.00-12.00	M-Th	Feb28-Mar14
	8.00-12.00	M-Th	Mar21-Apr06
	1.00-5.00	M-Th	Feb28-Mar14
	1.00-5.00	M-Th	Mar21-Apr06
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Mar07-Mar22
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr09
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr09
Microcomputer Hardware Fundamentals P4,800/36hrs	8.00-12.00	M-Th	Jan17-Jan31
	8.00-12.00	M-Th	Feb07-Feb21
	1.00-5.00	M-Th	Jan17-Jan31
	1.00-5.00	M-Th	Feb07-Feb21
	5.30-9.00	MWTh	Jan17-Feb09
	8.00-5.00	Fri	Jan21-Feb18
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb19
	8.00-12.00	M-Th	Feb28-Mar14
	8.00-12.00	M-Th	Mar21-Apr06
	1.00-5.00	M-Th	Feb28-Mar14
	1.00-5.00	M-Th	Mar21-Apr06
	5.30-9.00	M-Th	Jan17-Jan31
	8.00-5.00	Fri	Mar04-Apr08
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr09
Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P5,100/35hrs	8.30-12.00	MWTh	Jan17-Feb03
	8.30-12.00	MWTh	Feb07-Feb24
	1.30-6.00	MWTh	Jan17-Feb03
	1.30-5.00	MWTh	Feb07-Feb24
	5.30-8.00	MWTh	Feb07-Feb24
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb19
	8.30-12.00	MWTh	Feb28-Mar17
	8.30-12.00	MWTh	Mar28-Apr14
	1.30-5.00	MWTh	Feb28-Mar17
	1.30-6.00	MWTh	Mar28-Apr14
	5.30-8.00	MWTh	Mar07-Mar30
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr09
Advanced Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P5,100/36hrs	5.30-8.00	M-Th	Jan17-Feb01
	8.00-5.00	Fri	Jan21-Feb18
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb19
	5.30-8.00	M-Th	Mar07-Mar22
	8.00-5.00	Fri	Mar04-Apr08
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr09
Television & Monitor Servicing P4,600/36hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Feb01
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb07-Feb22
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb19
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb16-Mar15
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Mar21-Apr08
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr09
Home Video P3,600/20hrs	8.00-12.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb19
	8.00-12.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr09
Applied Telephony P4,500/36hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb07-Feb22
Practical Cellular Phone Servicing P5,100/27hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Jan27
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb19
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-Mar10
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Mar28-Apr07
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr09

MECHANICAL

Lathe Machine Operation P7,000/40hrs	5.00-9.00	MTTh	Jan17-Feb01
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb19
	5.00-9.00	MTTh	Feb28-Mar15
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr02
Milling Machine Operation P7,000/40hrs	5.00-9.00	MTThF	Jan17-Feb01
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb19
	5.00-9.00	MTThF	Feb28-Mar15
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr02
Basic CAD/CAM P4,500/40hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Feb03
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb19
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-Mar17
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr02
CNC Milling Programming P4,500/40hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Feb03
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb19
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-Mar17
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr02
Gas Welding Cutting & Brazing P5,500/40hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Feb03
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb19
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-Mar17
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr02

ELECTRICAL

Industrial Electrician P4,500/60hrs	8.30-12.00	M-F	Jan10-Feb03
	1.30-5.00	M-F	Jan10-Feb03
	5.30-9.00	M-Th	Jan10-Feb09
	8.00-5.30	Sat	Jan15-Mar05
	8.00-6.30	Sun	Jan16-Mar06
	8.30-12.00	M-F	Feb21-Mar18
	1.30-5.00	M-F	Feb21-Mar18
	5.30-9.00	M-Th	Feb21-Mar24
	8.00-5.30	Sat	Mar19-May07
	8.00-5.30	Sun	Mar20-May08
Building Wiring Installation and Maintenance P4,500/60hrs	8.30-12.00	M-F	Jan10-Feb02
	5.30-9.00	M-Th	Jan10-Feb08
	8.00-5.30	Sat	Jan15-Mar05
	8.30-12.00	M-F	Feb21-Mar17
	5.30-9.00	M-Th	Feb21-Mar22
	8.00-5.30	Sat	Mar19-May07
Electrical Control Wiring Installation and Troubleshooting P4,500/48hrs	5.30-8.30	M-Th	Jan10-Feb03
	8.00-5.00	Sun	Jan16-Feb20
	5.30-8.30	M-Th	Feb21-Mar17
	8.00-5.00	Sun	Mar20-Apr24
Motor and Transformer Rewinding P4,500/60hrs	5.30-9.00	M-Th	Jan10-Feb03
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Jan15-Mar05
	5.30-9.00	M-Th	Feb21-Mar22
	8.00-5.00	Sun	Mar20-May08
AutoCAD P4,600/72hrs	1.30-5.00	M-F	Jan10-Feb08
	5.30-9.00	M-F	Jan10-Feb08
	8.00-6.00	Sat	Jan15-Mar05
	8.00-5.30	Sat	Jan15-Mar05
	8.00-6.00	Sun	Jan16-Mar06
	8.00-9.00	M-F	Feb14-Feb23
	8.30-12.00	M-F	Feb21-Mar21
	1.30-5.00	M-F	Feb21-Mar21
	5.30-9.00	M-F	Feb21-Mar21
	8.00-5.30	Sat	Mar19-May11
	8.00-6.00	Sun	Mar20-May15
Advanced Industrial Motor Control P4,500/60hrs	5.30-8.00	M-Th	Jan10-Feb08
	8.00-5.30	Sun	Jan16-Mar06
	5.30-8.00	M-Th	Feb21-Mar22
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Mar19-May07
	8.00-5.00	Sun	Mar20-May08

INSTRUMENTATION

Pneumatic Ind'l Controls P4,800/42hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Feb03
	8.00-4.00	Sat	Feb12-Mar19
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-Mar18
	8.00-4.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr16
Electro-Pneumatics P4,800/42hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb07-Feb24
	8.00-4.00	Sat	Jan22-Feb26
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Mar28-Apr14
	1.30-8.30	Sat	Apr02-May07
Basic PLC P4,800/42hrs	8.00-12.00	M-Th	Jan17-Feb24
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Feb03
	1.00-5.00	M-F	Jan27-Feb01
	8.00-3.00	Sun	Apr03-May15
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-Mar18
	1.30-8.30	Sat	Mar05-Apr16
Advance PLC P5,400/42hrs	8.00-3.00	Sun	Jan23-Mar13
	8.00-12.00	M-Th	Feb28-Mar18
	8.00-4.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr16
	1.00-5.00	M-F	Mar07-Apr16
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Mar28-Apr14
Calibration for Process Instrumentation P4,800/36hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Feb03
	8.00-3.00	Sun	Jan23-Mar13
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-Mar18
	2.00-8.00	Sat	Apr02-May07
Industrial Process Controls P4,800/36hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb07-Feb24
	2.00-8.00	Sat	Feb12-Mar19
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Mar28-Apr14
	8.00-3.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr16
SCADA Visualization using Wonderware InTouch P4,800/36hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Feb03
	8.00-3.00	Sat	Feb12-Mar19
	8.00-3.00	Sun	Jan23-Mar13
	5.30-8.30	M-Th	Feb28-Mar18
	8.00-3.00	Sat	Mar05-Apr16
	8.00-3.00	Sun	Apr03-May15
Process Automation Course P8,800/72hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Feb24
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-Apr14
Machine Automation Course P12,900/120hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Jan17-Mar18
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Feb28-May06

For inquiries, please visit or call:

Meralco Foundation Institute
MFI Bldg. Meralco Center, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City

632-0756 to 67
locals 431 to 433
email tlcp@mfi.org.ph

- first- come, first- served basis
- 50% down payment upon enrolment ,
- full payment for courses with 24 or less training hours

now offering:

CERTIFICATE COURSE FOR NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

course includes:

- 4 semesters of CISCO Networking Academy Program (CNAP) for CCNA
- Microsoft Certified System Administrator (MCSA) Core Technologies
- Red Hat Linux System Administration

Microsoft CERTIFIED
CISCO SYSTEMS

Visit our website for more details! www.mfi.org.ph

Globe Kababayan presents Kumustahan 2004 concerts for OFWs in Europe

The APO Hiking Society's witty repartee drew nostalgic laughter from the crowd.

Globe's Head of Overseas Mobile Services Alan Supnot with the three lucky winners of Globe Prepaid phone kits in Vienna, Austria.

Globe Kababayan takes London by storm.

Nanette Inventor wows the crowd in Rome with her performance as the OFW "Tita Munding."

For the approximately eight million Filipinos living and working abroad, coping with homesickness is a daily struggle. Especially during the Christmas season, which is traditionally a time for family and friends to get together. And for many of these OFWs, the best way to keep the loneliness at bay is to stay connected to all things Filipino, by keeping in touch with loved ones, remaining up-to-date with the country's current issues and events, and listening to music or watching shows that bring them closer to home.

Globe Kababayan, the OFW mobile services arm of innovations leader Globe Handyphone, recently treated Europe-based OFWs to an evening of distinctly Filipino harmonies and humor with the Kumustahan Concert Series 2004 organized by Star Events, Inc. Touring four (4) major European cities – namely Amsterdam, Netherlands; Rome, Italy; Vienna, Austria, and London, UK – the Kumustahan Concert Series gave the diplomatic corps and the OFW community a chance to take a break from their busy work schedules and get together to reminisce fondly about the Philippines and the people they left behind.

Talents from each country's local OFW community graciously opened the show, which was hosted by Hanap Buhay Overseas anchor Angelique Lazo. Veteran comedian Nanette Inventor brought the house down with Tita Munding, her personal take on the OFW lifestyle. Meanwhile, singing siren Geneva Cruz thrilled the crowd with her sexy voice and sultry dance moves, and further excited the audience when she asked veejay KC Montero to join her onstage for a special number. Finally, the well-loved trio of Jim Paredes, Danny Javier, and Buboy Garrovillo – more popularly known as the APO Hiking Society – alternately tugged at the audience's heartstrings with their repertoire of songs that evoke nostalgia and patriotism and tickled their funnybones with their kooky antics.

However, the show brought more than just entertainment to the homesick crowd. A significant segment of the Kumustahan concert was devoted to introducing the Globe Kababayan products and services available in European countries. OFWs have the option of reloading their loved ones' phones with traditional Globe Call and Text cards or through the enhanced AutoloadMAX service, which allows senders to create personalized messages to accompany each reload. These products and services, along with the award-winning Share-a-Load service, are also available in countries like Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and other OFW territories.

But the service that received the most enthusiastic response from the OFW community was the newly-launched Globe G-Cash, the mobile currency that can be transferred from one Globe or Touch Mobile phone to another to make purchases, payments or remittances. The audience was delighted to find out that they could send G-Cash to their loved ones through Globe's remittance partners in Europe. Capping the night's revels was a raffle of Globe Prepaid phone kits to lucky audience members who could show a text message from their Globe Handyphone or Touch Mobile family members or friends. These prepaid phone kits would be delivered by Globe as Christmas gifts to the winners' designated recipients in the Philippines.

All in all, the Kamustahan Concert Series was a success – in providing distinctly Filipino entertainment for homesick OFWs and promoting the connectivity fostered by Globe Kababayan's suite of products and services tailor-fit to the unique needs of the global Filipino.

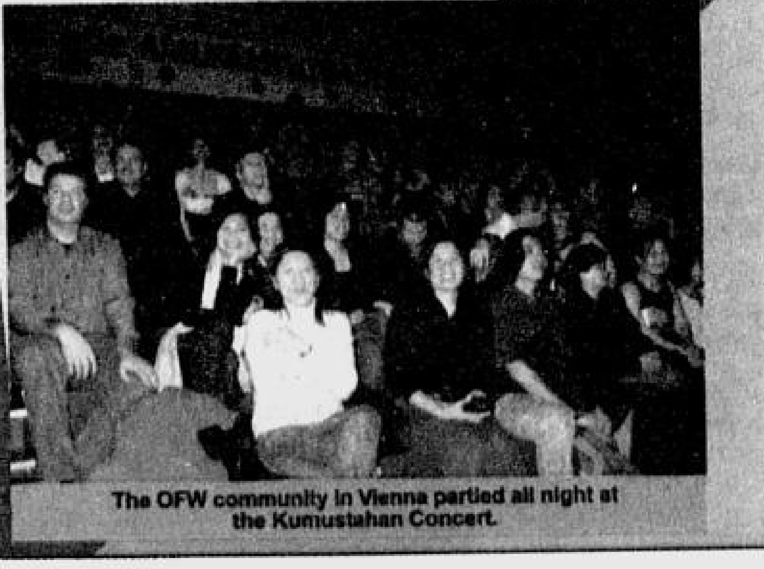
Proudly Filipino entertainers topbilled the Kumustahan Concert Series.

Seen enjoying the show were Philippine Ambassador to Austria Victor Garcia, Jr. and wife Connie.

Geneva Cruz's sultry voice soothes OFWs in Europe.

Host Angelique Lazo and Globe Kababayan's Alan Supnot talk about products and services for the OFW community.

Amsterdam OFWs took time out from their busy schedules to enjoy the Kumustahan Concert.

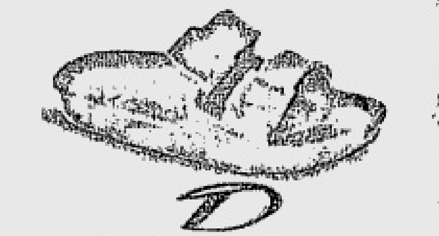


The OFW community in Vienna partied all night at the Kumustahan Concert.

Globe Kababayan

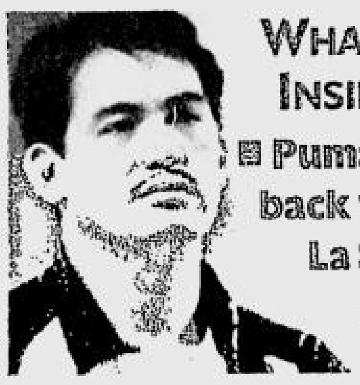
MOBILE SERVICES PARA SA OFW

SPORTS
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



Sa tibay, hindi basta-basta bumibigay.

WHAT'S INSIDE



Pumaren back with La Salle /A26

Rosales, Delasin set World Cup meeting /A27

Suns torch Wizards; Bulls gore Pacers /A28

PAYBACK TIME

Phone Pals drub Realtors

GAME TOMORROW
(*Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena, Laoag City*)
6 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs San Miguel Beer

By June Navarro

YANCY de Ocampo really felt at home at the Makati Coliseum.

Returning to the venue which he lit up with his countless exploits as an amateur, De Ocampo fired 13 points right in the first quarter to set the tone for a 102-83 Talk 'N Text rout of Sta. Lucia Realty last night in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup.

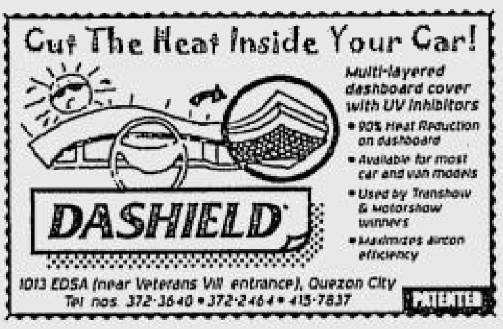
De Ocampo recalled his key role for Welcoat in the PBL with towering jumpers that sent the Phone Pals off to a 28-5 lead, which they sustained throughout.

"He's (De Ocampo) inspired. He vividly remembered how Marlou (Aquino) ran rings around him the last time we met," said Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal.

In the Realtors' stunning 104-102 win over the Phone Pals in the first round, Aquino exploded for 29 points, including a shifty move in the paint just seconds before halftime that humbled De Ocampo no end.

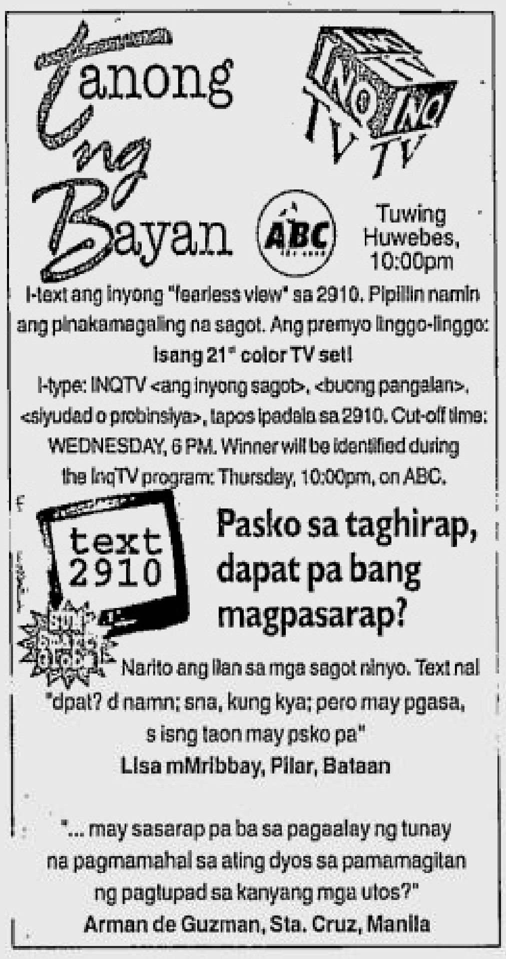
"That memory kept flashing on his (De Ocampo) mind so he bounced back by aggres-

PHONE PALS/ A26


Cut The Heat Inside Your Car!
Multi-layered dashboard cover with UV inhibitors
- 90% Heat Reduction on dashboard
- Available for most car and van models
- Used by Transhow & Motorshow winners
- Maximizes aircon efficiency

DASHIELD
1013 EDSA (near Veterans Vill entrance), Quezon City
Tel nos. 372-3640 • 372-2464 • 415-7837
PATENTED

Shark
ACCESSORIES
D-Max
OVAL STEPTUBE
TITANIUM STEPBOARD
BUMPER OVERIDER
SIDE PROTECTOR
SURESTEP
FREE! BUMPER OVERIDER
When you buy any 2 Shark Accessories.



Tuwing Huwebes, 10:00pm

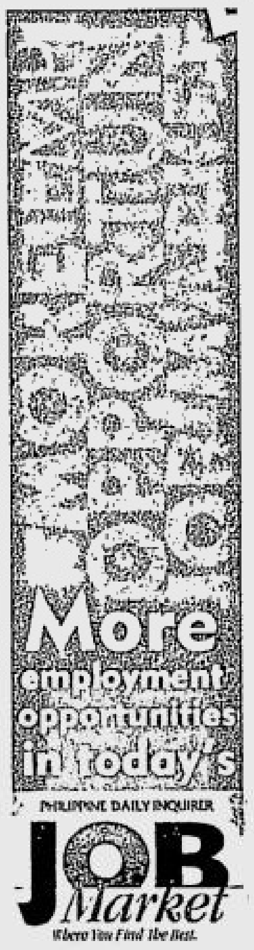
I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipiliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot. Ang premyo linggo-linggo: Isang 21" color TV set!
I-type: INQTV <ang inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, tapos ipadala sa 2910. Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 6 PM. Winner will be identified during the InqTV program: Thursday, 10:00pm, on ABC.

Pasko sa taghirap, dapat pa bang magpasarap?

Narito ang ilan sa mga sagot ninyo. Text na!

"dpat? d namn; sna, kung kya; pero may pgasa, s isng taon may psko pa"
Lisa mMribbay, Pilar, Bataan

"... may sasarap pa ba sa pagaalay ng tunay na pagmamahal sa ating dyos sa pamamagitan ng pagtupad sa kanyang mga utos?"
Arman de Guzman, Sta. Cruz, Manila


More employment opportunities in today's
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market
Where You Find The Best.

Poblador Riviera champ

FORMER Philcomsat president Honorio Poblador took advantage of the pristine conditions and fine weather to shoot a 10-over par 82 and take low gross honors at the recently concluded 2004 Chairman's Invitational at the Couples course of the Riviera Golf Club.

Poblador played a consistent round on the course designed by former Masters champion Fred Couples, gunning down a birdie on the 14th to take the sting out of a double bogey on the tough par 5 11th hole.

Lawyer Sikini Labastilla banked on a birdie on the ninth hole to win the low net crown.

Ambassador Voltaire Gazmin took home the Class A trophy beating Joe Dagdagan and lawyer Bo Amora by countback while Cicero Castellano ruled the Class B division.

In Class C, retired major general RV Reyes edged Bert Varona with a net score of 75.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

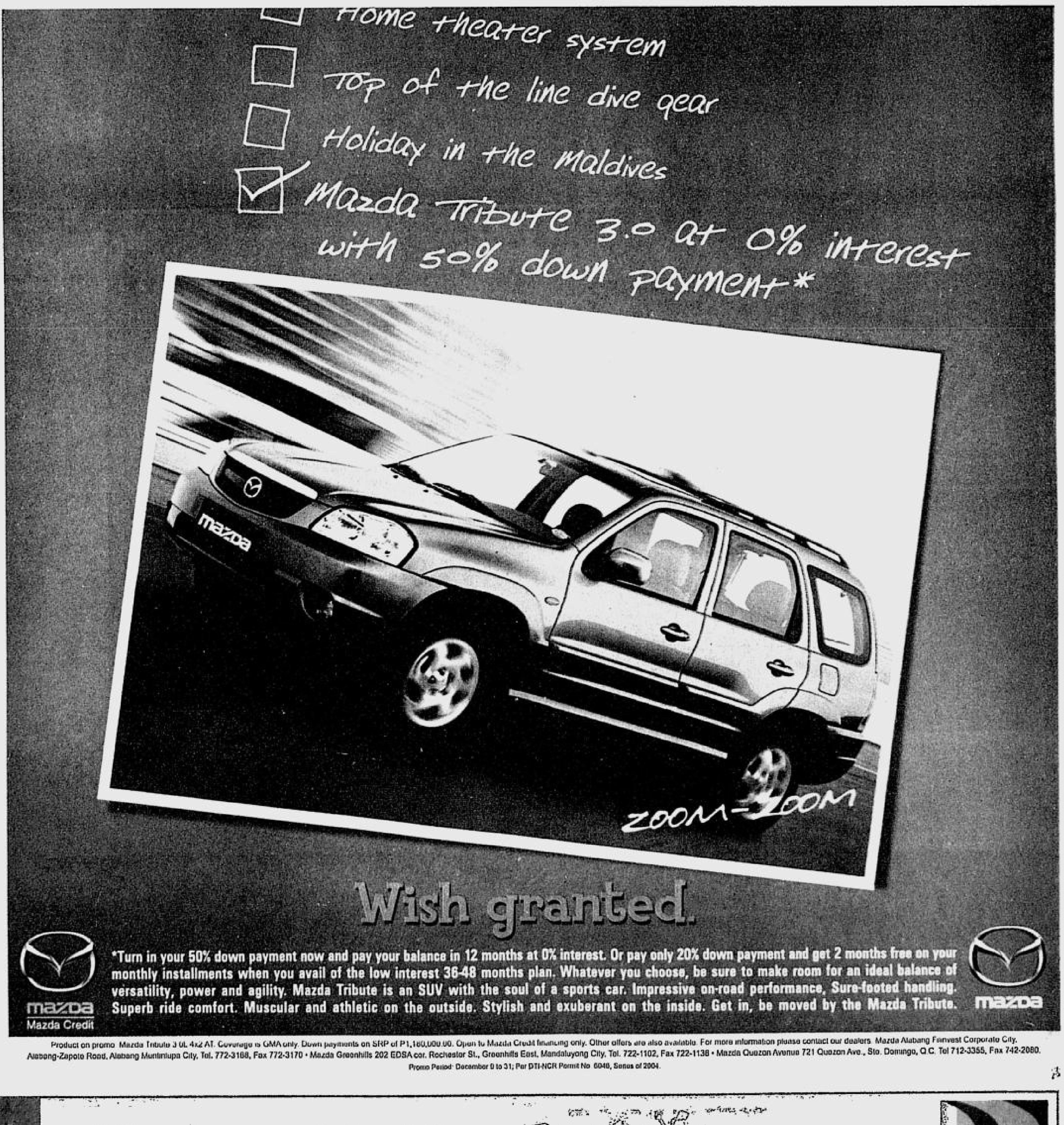
BASKETBALL: NBA-Grizzlies vs Lakers; 10:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—The Czar, Mike Fratello hopes to lead Memphis to victory over LA.

US NCAA-UIC vs Duke; 9:30 p.m. (r); ESPN-Check out the replay of this college hoops duel

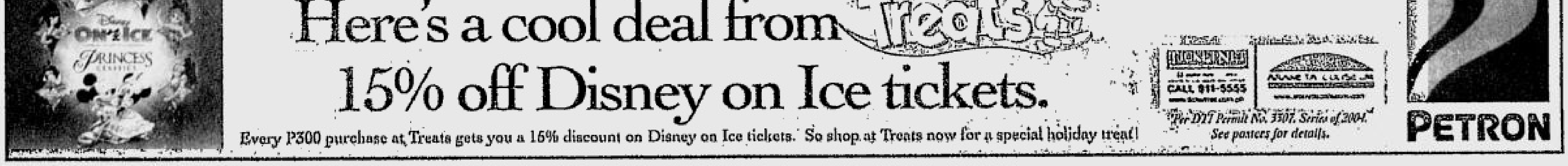
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL-Ravens vs Colts, 9:30 a.m. (r-4 p.m.); ESPN—See Baltimore collide with Indianapolis in this AFC encounter

TENNIS: Wimbledon 2004-Serena Williams vs Amelie Mauresmo; 4:30 p.m. (r); STAR Sports—Check out this replay of the semifinals between two powerful women.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.


☐ Home theater system
☐ Top of the line dive gear
☐ Holiday in the Maldives
☑ Mazda Tribute 3.0 at 0% interest with 50% down payment*
mazda
ZOOM-ZOOM
Wish granted.
mazda
Mazda Credit
mazda
*Turn in your 50% down payment now and pay your balance in 12 months at 0% interest. Or pay only 20% down payment and get 2 months free on your monthly installments when you avail of the low interest 36-48 months plan. Whatever you choose, be sure to make room for an ideal balance of versatility, power and agility. Mazda Tribute is an SUV with the soul of a sports car. Impressive on-road performance, Sure-footed handling. Superb ride comfort. Muscular and athletic on the outside. Stylish and exuberant on the inside. Get in, be moved by the Mazda Tribute.

Product on promo: Mazda Tribute 3.0L 4x2 AT. Coverage is GMA only. Down payments on SRP of P1,160,000.00. Open to Mazda Credit financing only. Other offers are also available. For more information please contact our dealers: Mazda Alabang Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang-Zapote Road, Alabang Muntinlupa City, Tel. 772-3168, Fax 772-3170 • Mazda Greenhills 202 EDSA cor. Rochester St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City, Tel. 722-1102, Fax 722-1138 • Mazda Quezon Avenue 721 Quezon Ave., Sto. Domingo, Q.C. Tel 712-3355, Fax 742-2080.
Promo Period: December 9 to 31; Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6040, Series of 2004.



Here's a cool deal from Treats
15% off Disney on Ice tickets.
Every P300 purchase at Treats gets you a 15% discount on Disney on Ice tickets. So shop at Treats now for a special holiday treat!
Per DTI Permit No. 3307, Series of 2004.
See posters for details.

PUMAREN: Three more seasons

SUSPENSE OVER

Pumaren back with La Salle

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE GUESSING game is finally over.

Franz Pumaren will be back as head coach of the De La Salle Green Archers for three more seasons.

"It's the decision of the school and the school owns the team," said Danny Jose, UAAP president and La Salle's athletic director. "The school feels that this is what's best for the team."

"I'm sure it will help (La Salle's bid to defend the title)," added Jose. "But there's no timetable yet as to when he'll start practicing with the team. It hasn't been discussed yet."

In fact, some of the La Salle players disclosed that they have yet to hear the news.

Sources said that Pumaren will release an official statement soon.

Pumaren, who steered La Salle to five championship titles, surprised everyone when he announced his retirement after winning Game 3 of the UAAP finals last Sept. 30.

The 41-year-old mentor stressed he has "nothing more to prove" and that he has already "accomplished everything" he wanted for the team.

Pumaren, who has served as La Salle coach for seven years, later took a vacation in the United States for "a much-needed break."

In his absence, assistant coach Gee Abanilla temporarily took over coaching the ICTSI-La Salle squad in the ongoing PBL Open tournament.

Before he left, however, La Salle president Bro. Armin Luistro, FSC, had strongly urged Pumaren to reconsider his decision to quit.

Pumaren hinted his comeback when he said he'll "strongly reconsider" Luistro's offer during the Animo Night party last Nov. 19.

He has also been watching ICTSI-La Salle's recent games from the sidelines.

Meanwhile, the Adamson Falcons have appointed Mel Alas as their new head coach.

Alas, who replaced Luigi Trillo, had delivered successive titles for the Las Piñas College Huskies in the College and Universities Athletics Association.

Over at the National University, Manny Dandan will come back as head tactician for the NU Bulldogs.

Dandan, who replaced Rico Perez, is best remembered for having led NU to its first Final Four appearance in 2001.

Phone Pals drub Realtors

From page A25

sively attacking the basket," said Banal.

This time around, Aquino stuck out like a sore thumb on the court, scoring only two points and hauling down a lone rebound in 24 minutes of action.

In the second game, Shell defeated FedEx, 90-85, for its 12th win in 18 matches and tightened its grip on the second spot in the standings.

The Express dropped to 6-10 in a tie with Red Bull.

Jimmy Alapag and the 6-foot-9 De Ocampo paced the Phone Pals with 20 points each while Victor Pablo, Willie Miller and Mark Telan finished in double-double figures.

Pablo had 18 points on top of 10 rebounds which installed the 6-foot-4 swingman as the 22nd player in league history to have grabbed at least 2,000 boards.

By recovering from a 103-98 Shell debacle, the Phone Pals not only regained the lead at 12-5 but also secured at least a playoff for an outright semifinal berth.

"We didn't do anything special. We just played our hearts out and we won," said Banal.

The Phone Pals inflicted on the Realtors their 11th loss in 16 games, putting Sta. Lucia in peril of finishing either ninth or 10th at the end of the elimination round.

"This is a good game to win before playing against Ginebra," explained Banal. "They're playing the best basketball in the league right now. And a win like this boosts our confidence."

Meanwhile, Purefoods team manager Alvin Patrimonio will be feted by the PBA on Dec. 22 at the PhilSports Arena.

The scores:

TALK 'N TEXT 102—Alapag 20, De Ocampo 20, Pablo 18, Miller 14, Telan 11, Camaso 7, Belano 5, Salangsang 4, Ravena 3, Fran 0.

STA. LUCIA 83—Espino 23, Duremdes 22, Gumatay 14, Omolon 11, Cuan 5, Gonzales 4, Aquino 2, Francisco 2, Santos 0, Adriano 0, Locsin 0.

Quarters: 32-13, 52-37, 75-55, 102-83

Second game

SHELL 90—Calaguio 28, Dela Cruz 22, Mamaril 12, Bajar 10, Tubid 9, Alvarez 4, Sta. Maria 3, Jackson 2, Cruz 0, Legaspi 0.

FEDEX 85—Ritualo 19, Ferriols 17, Sison 12, Arboleda 11, De Ocampo 8, Se 6, Pingris 4, Yap 4, Billones 2, Codiñera 2, Gonzales 0, Ejercito 0.

Quarters: 26-24, 50-49, 79-70, 90-85

REALTORS
16
16
PHONE PALS

RUDY ESPERAS

BIG MAN Yancy de Ocampo comes up huge for the Phone Pals, knocking in 20 points to power his team to victory.

Miranda steps out of Santos' shadow

DENOK Miranda is satisfied with his supporting role in the Magnolia-FEU team in the PBL Open Championship.

He doesn't mind playing in the shadow of team star Arwind Santos, but he's ready to step up any time.

Last week, the Ice Cream Wizards were in danger of having their winning streak snapped with Santos struggling for baskets against a lightweight opponent.

But Miranda came to the rescue, leading Magnolia's running game and scoring key points in the last quarter to lift the Wizards past the hard-fighting AMP-Ateneo for a 64-55 win last Thursday at the Letran gym.

The Wizards now own the tournament's longest winning streak after posting their seventh victory mainly through Miranda's 13 points and 4 rebounds.

The win also assured Magnolia an automatic slot in the semifinals, an incentive for the top two teams after the elimination round.

"He just showed what kind of player and leader he is," said coach Koy Banal after Miranda earned the Player of the Week citation from the PBL Press Corps . "He's been playing well lately for us."

Magnolia remains on top with a 9-3 slate.

The other teams fighting for the remaining outright slot in the semifinals are Montaña Pawnshop at 8-2, followed by Granny Goose and Welcoat Paints at 6-5.

After taking an 18-point lead, Magnolia found itself under pressure when AMP-Ateneo pulled within six. But Miranda scored on a driving lay-up to quell the Eagles' comeback.

Santos managed to score only two-points in the game but compensated with 8 rebounds.

Prior to the game against AMP-Ateneo, Miranda had scored in double figures just once in 11 games.

Despite his scoring woes, the newly wed Miranda ranks third in assists at 4.0 apg and fifth in steals at 1.6 spg.

The PBL has taken a break due to the holiday season and will resume on Jan. 4,

Two champs named Poe and Pacquiao

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THERE was distinct chaos. The boiling crowds pushed and shoved.

But the main picture in Manny Pacquiao's birthday celebration on Saturday was straight out of a Pinoy fairy tale.

Unlike in Pacquiao's last fight in Taguig, where the crowd was estimated at close to 25,000, no actual count could be made of the poor villagers who came from all directions in GenSan to mob the world boxing celebrity.

Of course, everybody who came left amply rewarded.

Other than see and touch their idol, each villager got a crisp P100 bill, noodles, canned goods and at least three kilos of rice.

***

The procession to the Pacquiao residence started in the morning and continued to lengthen as sundown approached on Saturday.

Broadcaster Ronnie Nathanielsz, no stranger to mammoth crowds, swore he had never seen so many poor people converge in one place on a single day.

By late afternoon, he said Pacquiao had to send in 85 more sacks of rice.

By a plain estimate, Pacquiao, who presided using a bullhorn, was said to have spent P1 million last Saturday.

Nathanielsz reported that the endless procession of Pacquiao adorers had been expected to end with the evening feast, highlight of the great boxer's 26th birthday celebration.

***

At about the same time in Manila on Saturday, an even longer procession continued to snake into the Sto. Domingo Church.

There, too, had been chaos, with several fans getting injured.

But unlike the mob in GenSan, the crowd in Quezon City did not come for a bite of holiday joy.

Of course, as in GenSan, the endless flow of people in Quezon City also came to hail a hero.

The endless stream of mourners moving past the handsome remains of Fernando Poe Jr., however, became a scene out of an unfulfilled Pinoy fairy tale.

The FPJ epic could've reached its climax with a victory in the last presidential polls.

Poe had tried to carry on with his fight, while his countless backers continued to swear their hero had been cheated.

Unfortunately, Poe's love affair with the poor people he loved came to a tragic end after he succumbed to a stroke.

***

Meanwhile, there seemed no end to the Pacquiao magic.

The boxing hero will never cease to draw great crowds for as long as he keeps winning.

But how to explain the great outpouring of love and grief, unmatched hereabouts, for FPJ, who could no longer fight his great fight for the poor he had dreamt of saving?

Maybe it's not improper to conclude that FPJ had confirmed his victory and heroism with his untimely death?

In fact, there's now this great puzzle on how FPJ could've lost the last election based on the endless turnout of supporters in his wake.

One barangay *kagawad* in our place yesterday tried to provide the answer.

He swore he saw how FPJ had managed to post a final lead totaling 18,000 votes in our city.

This edge, the *kagawad* bared, had been shamefully reduced to only 10,000 when he next saw it transferred to the certificate of canvass.

Suddenly, the man they had refused to call Filipino was now worthy to be a National Artist.

FPJ's supreme triumph, his true championship, however lies in the refusal of his loved ones for the actor to be buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Not even Ferdinand Marcos had been deemed worthy of that.

NAUNA! MABILIS! GARANTISADO!
TEAM LBC
HARI NG PADALA!
www.lbcexpress.com
50 YEARS
LBC
Now with over 600 BRANCHES WORLDWIDE
Over 50 years of service to Filipinos everywhere.
24-HOUR NATIONWIDE DOOR-TO-DOOR COURIER SERVICES • MONEY REMITTANCE • FLOWERS EXPRESS • PHOTO SERVICES • BILL PAYMENTS

STRATEGY DISCUSSION

Rosales, Delasin set World Cup meeting

By Francis Ochoa

ALTHOUGH terribly homesick, Jennifer Rosales is going to cut short her vacation to answer the most important call of all—that of her country's.

Rosales is going to leave the country in the last week of January to meet up with Dorothy Delasin and discuss their plan and strategy when they represent the Philippines in the World Cup slated Feb. 11 to 13 in England.

"I'm going to meet with Dorothy before the World Cup so we can talk about what we're going to do," said the 26-year-old Rosales.

"I really want to win this thing for the country. Dorothy and I want to be the first to win it for the Philippines."

Already, people are talking about the Rosales-Delasin tandem and Rosales revealed some of the players in the LPGA said they have a serious chance of winning the prestigious tournament.

ROSALES

DELASIN

"We have a big chance to win. Players are telling me that if Dorothy plays with me, we have a big chance," Rosales said.

The two former national golf team mainstays last played together for the country in the 1998 Asian Games where they salvaged a team bronze in Bangkok.

Rosales has always been proud of her roots and up to now, after having completed five years on the LPGA, she still gets goose bumps just seeing the Philippine flag during tournaments.

"Seeing my flag out there in tournaments, it just makes me so proud. I've never been ashamed of being a Filipino."

In fact, after coming off a breakthrough year, Rosales said that part of the motivation that spurred her to her best LPGA season yet was putting the Philippines in the sporting map.

"I'm proud to be a Filipino," said Rosales. "I've always been. A lot of stuff has happened, like the floods recently, and I feel blessed that I'm able to give people here something to be happy about."

But Rosales feels the World Cup would be an even bigger reason for her compatriots to celebrate.

After all, Rosales and Delasin will be playing not for the prize money but will be representing the country against the best golfers in the world today.

"I'm kind of excited about that. We'll see what happens," she said.

Rosales said she feels no pressure going into the World Cup, even if expectations are high because of her partnership with Delasin. She added that neither will playing in front of a big crowd affect her game.

"Golf's about pressure," said Rosales. "It's part of the game and I don't feel that anymore. I also love playing in front of big crowds."

Rosales arrived Saturday morning and said she was "glad to be back home."

"I've really been homesick and I miss my family, my friends, the food here. I've been gone nine months and it's such a long, long time to be away from home."

Annual Christmas jungolf tilt today

A SUCCESSION of holiday season events for junior golfers fires off today with the Nike-sponsored annual Christmas tournament of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines at the Canlubang north and Riviera executive courses.

Nike, through its local distributor PacSports Phils., is providing premium items as giveaways and raffle prizes for the big field of more than a hundred kids vying for honors in six different age-groups.

Those in Class A (15-17 years), Class B (13-14), Class C (11-12) and Class D (9-10) will play at Canlubang north while players belonging to Class E (7-8) and Class F (6 and under) will see action at the Riviera executive course.

Coinciding with today's tournament is the election of officers and renewal of membership.

Tomorrow and Wednesday, the Young Guns Invitational tournament will be held at the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club.

The Junior Golf League is also staging its yearend tournament this week.

A LIFETIME GIFT...HAIR TRANSPLANTATION!

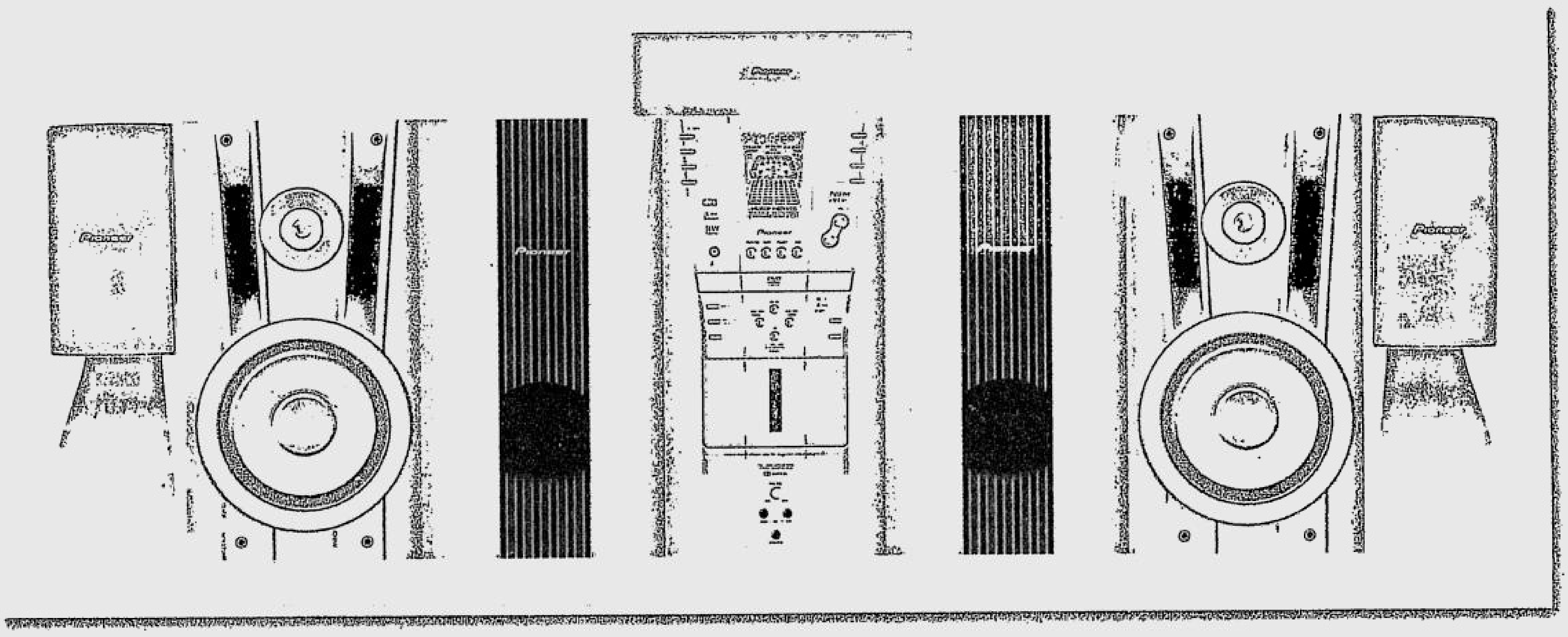
Remember how your hair used to look? Now imagine your life again with a head full of hair. It grows, it's permanent and only maintenance is a monthly haircut. Dr. Pineda uses the latest technology with follicular unit transplant to achieve a natural looking hairline. *"As natural as it used to be"!* ***Andrew G. Pineda, M.D.*** is a full time Beverly Hills trained hair transplant specialist who can help you achieve your dream. **CALL NOW!**

BEFORE
AFTER

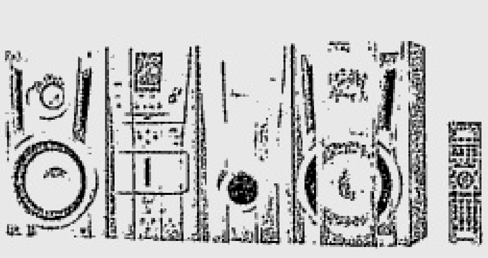
The Pineda Hair Clinics
MAKATI 8130691 • www.pinedahair.com • DAVAO 082 2212682

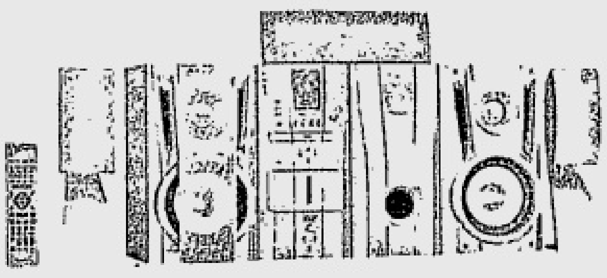
WANTED

Satisfied owners of the most stylish DVD Mini System.



EV99DVD


EV33DVD


EV66DVD

Watch out for the **EV99DVD** from **Pioneer.** Wearing a streamlined design with sleek lines, smooth silver finish that has drawn stares from the local population. The **EV99DVD** is reportedly armed with a **5-speaker system** with **dual subwoofers** and has been known to possess full **Karaoke Functions**. Last seen playing **DVD, VCD, CD, WMA, MP3** and **JPEG** for satisfied buyers. If you come across an **EV99DVD Mini System** at your nearest **Pioneer** dealer, grab one immediately!

Also available: **EV66DVD** and **EV33DVD Mini Systems.**

DVD VIDEO
Visit us at www.pioneer.com.sg or email us at mgme@compass.com.ph
Pioneer *sound.vision.soul*

THIS WEEK ON
NBA RPN

Orlando Magic VS Miami Heat
DEC. 20 | 7:30 PM

DEC.23
CHARLOTTE
@HOUSTON
7:30 PM

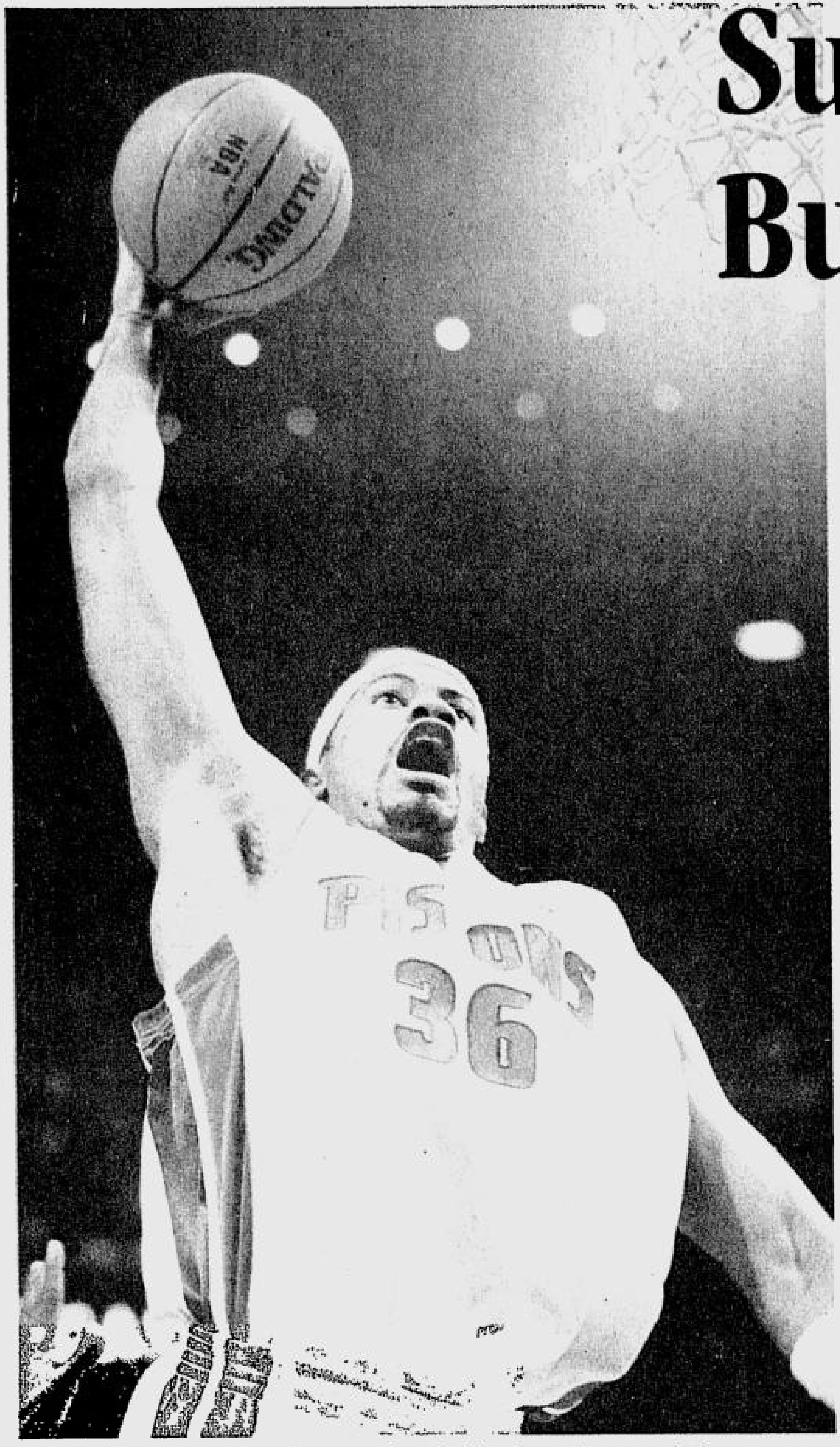
DEC.26
DETROIT @ INDIANA
10:00 AM

MIAMI @ LA LAKERS
SUNDAYS BIG EVENT
9:00 PM

MONDAYS, THURSDAYS AND SUNDAYS

NBA RADIO
Magic VS Miami Heat
7:00 AM BLAZIN'

Suns torch Wizards; Bulls gore Pacers



DETROIT Pistons' Rasheed Wallace soars for a dunk in a frustrating one-point loss to the Portland TrailBlazers in Auburn Hills, Michigan. AP

NEW YORK—Shawn Marion grabbed a personal season-high 36 points and 14 rebounds as the Phoenix Suns eased past the Washington Wizards, 110-96, Saturday to secure their status as the NBA's leading team.

One day after downing the Seattle SuperSonics in a battle of the two top in the league, the host Suns improved their record to 21-3.

Quentin Richardson contributed 19 points to the Phoenix cause while guard Steve Nash had 13 points and 11 assists. The surging Suns claimed their eighth consecutive win and 17th in 18 games.

In Charlotte, Jamal Sampson drained two freethrows with three seconds to play in overtime to earn a 101-100 upset win for the expansion Bobcats over the Houston Rockets.

Trailing 101-97, Tracy McGrady hit a three-pointer at the buzzer for the Rockets but it was not enough as the Bobcats celebrated their fifth straight victory at home.

Emeka Okafor, the second overall pick in last year's draft, sparked Charlotte with 23 points and 17 rebounds. Keith Bogans added 19 points.

McGrady had 29 points for the Rockets while Yao Ming chipped in with 16 points and nine rebounds.

In Orlando, Cuttino Mobley notched 19 points as the Magic broke out of a three-game losing skid to pound the Denver Nuggets, 117-95.

Six players posted double figures for Orlando, including 17-point Dwayne Howard and 16-point Grant Hill. The Magic were in control from the opening tipoff and led by as much as 35 points.

The Nuggets played without top scorer Carmelo Anthony, who injured his left ankle against the Miami Heat Friday.

Dermarr Johnson had a season-best 18 points and eight rebounds for Denver, which has now lost four of its last five.

In Milwaukee, Allen Iverson poured in a NBA season-high 54 points to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to a 116-97 demolition of the Bucks.

Iverson's points haul was four shy of his career-best as the 76ers recorded their fourth win in five games.

In Cleveland, Paul Pierce amassed 34 points and Gary Payton nailed three important freethrows to help the Boston Celtics to a 114-107 overtime win over the Cavaliers.

Payton finished with 21 points, six coming in the final 67 seconds, including a three-pointer followed by three pressure-packed freethrows, which sealed Boston's fourth win in five outings and handed Cleveland its first home loss in 10.

LeBron James rebounded from his worst outing of the season to score 31 points but the 19-year-old was not around when the Cavs needed him most, fouling out of a contest for the first time in his career.

In San Antonio, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili each had 21 points as the Spurs destroyed the Golden State Warriors, 104-85.

The Spurs, who trailed by 14 points midway through the second quarter, also got 12 points and seven rebounds from double NBA MVP Tim Duncan as they collected their fourth consecutive win, and 15th straight over the Warriors at home.

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki posted 15 points and 12 rebounds as the Mavericks crushed the Atlanta Hawks, 90-68.

The Hawks were restricted to 28 points in the opening half.

In Detroit, Darius Miles hit a freethrow with 0.5 seconds left in regulation to lift the Portland Trail Blazers to a 75-74 victory over the champion Pistons.

Nick Van Exel paced Portland with 14 points while Miles finished with 13. Rasheed Wallace had 17 for the Pistons, who lost for the third time in five games.

In Chicago, Eddy Curry picked up 23 points and 13 rebounds as the Bulls downed the undermanned Indiana Pacers, 85-71, for their third consecutive win. *Reuters*

DAVID Harrison of the Indiana Pacers blocks

Phoenix wai

PHOENIX—The Phoenix Suns activated forward Jackson Vroman from the injured list on Saturday and waived guard Yuta Tabuse, the first Japanese-born player to appear in an NBA game.

The 5-foot-9 (1.75-meter) Tabuse

MMDA

MBC MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY

ALIW THEATER

IN COOPERATION WITH

Colt 45

Kodak Motion Picture Film

PRESENT

The 30th Metro Manila Film Festival 2004 Philippines

DEC. 25 to JAN. 7

"Magsaya, Manood at Tangkilikin ang Piling-Piling Pelikulang Pilipino!"

PARADE OF STARS
DEC. 24

BAZAAR
(in front of ALIW Theater)
DEC. 24 - 29

ROCK WITH THE STARS
(Concert in front of ALIW Theater)
DEC. 26 & 27

FANS DAY
(in front of ALIW Theater)
DEC 26, 27 & 28

AWARDS NIGHT
ALIW THEATER DEC. 29

TUSERAN Syrup Reformulated
PETRON
Palmolive Naturals
DZRH
90.7 LOVE RADIO
YES! FM 101.1
Bacchus
REGENT
CIRCULAN
ALBERTO

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

a shot by Antonio Davis of the Chicago Bulls.

Mavs honor US soldiers with front row seats

DALLAS—The national anthem meant something extra special Saturday night at American Airlines Center.

Being in the presence of 137 wounded men and women as a part of the first Seats for Soldiers created a buzz among the sellout crowd for the Mavericks' game, a 90-68 victory over Atlanta.

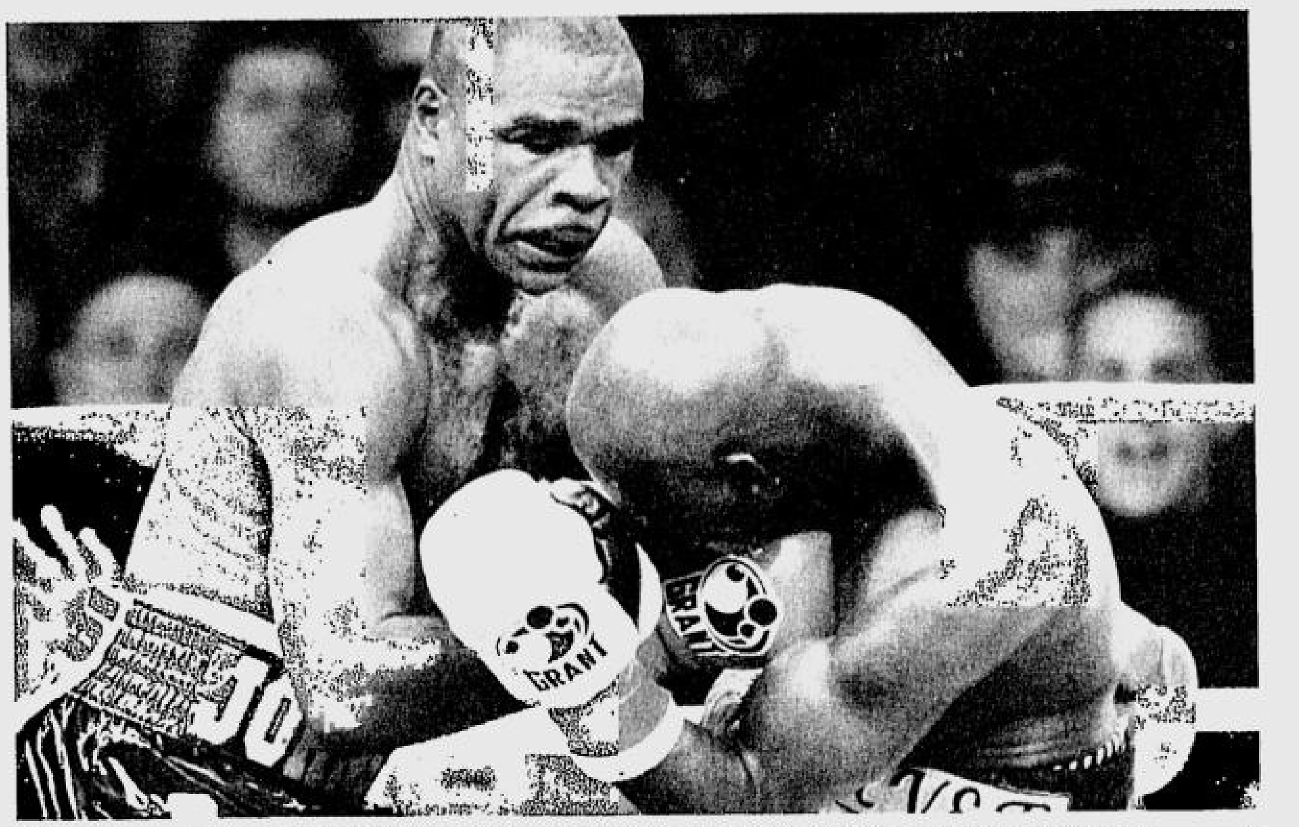
Clad in white T-shirts reading "United We Stand" on the front, the group flown in from Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, took up the courtside seats all the way around the floor and stood proud and tall during the national anthem.

"I can't believe I'm standing on the floor," said Mark McKane, a 24-year-old retired sergeant from Austin.

McKane lost his left arm on duty in Iraq after being hit with a rocket-propelled grenade. He also had two collapsed lungs.

Mavs season ticket holder Neal Hawks had people such as McKane in mind when he created the Seats for Soldiers event. Hawks and 47 other season ticket holders donated their front-row seats for the game (worth more than $150,000) to see that the soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan were treated like royalty for a day.

"Knowing that I had a tiny, tiny piece of giving something back—for all they've given, they've earned the right to sit there in the front row," Mavs owner Mark Cuban said. "It's because these folks are risking everything that allows us to enjoy all of this. We know how lucky we are, and sometimes you have to remind yourself that you can't take it for granted." *New York Times News Service*



GLEN Johnson, left, lands a body shot to Antonio Tarver in the 11th round of their light heavyweight bout. AP

Johnson turns back Tarver

LOS ANGELES—Glen Johnson, a virtual unknown until knocking out Roy Jones Jr., three months ago, won a split decision over Antonio Tarver on Saturday night in a matchup of the world's best light heavyweights.

The Staples Center crowd cheered throughout the final round, and when it ended, both fighters thrust their fists into the air, proclaiming victory.

The winner proved to be Johnson, who overcame Tarver's 4-inch (10-centimeter) height advantage to win, mainly by being the aggressor through most of the 12-round bout.

Judges Melvina Lathan and Chuck Giampa scored the bout 115-113 in favor of Johnson. Judge Marty Denkin had it 116-112 for Tarver. The Associated Press scored it 115-113 for Tarver.

The 6-foot-2 1/2 (1.89-meter) Tarver, a solid favorite, said he thought he won by dictating the pace and throwing the harder punches.

"I thought I hit him with some clean shots and hurt him around the fourth or fifth round," he said. "But Johnson was the better man this evening."

Johnson refused to say he was the best light heavyweight in the world.

"I'm still looking for Mr. Best. I would never say that I was the best," he said.

Johnson said Tarver didn't hurt him.

"He knocked me off balance a couple times, but I was never hurt," Johnson said. "It was a real close fight. I'd like to fight him again."

When asked if he would take a rematch, Tarver replied: "Of course."

Tarver lost a controversial 12-round decision to Jones in November 2003 before stopping him in the second round May 15. Johnson knocked Jones out in the ninth round Sept. 25.

Both fighters gave up championships for the fight. The WBC stripped Tarver of his belt for not agreeing to fight mandatory challenger Paul Briggs of Australia. Johnson decided to relinquish the IBF version rather than fight the organization's top challenger, Rico Hoye.

Nevertheless, Tarver entered the ring wearing a red crown.

Jones was 49-1 and considered one of the best pound-for-pound fighters in the world before losing to Tarver. Jones worked as a commentator on the HBO telecast of the bout and said afterward he thought Tarver won.

The 35-year-old Johnson raised his record to 42-9-2 with 28 knockouts. He didn't begin to box until he was 20 and turned professional three years later. *AP*

ves Tabuse; Snow banished

four games, averaging 1.8
0 rebounds and 0.8 assists.
de history on Nov. 1, when
put him on their roster. Two
r, he became the first native
to see action, collecting all
his career points in 10 minutes of play against Atlanta.

"I have learned that I belong on this level," Tabuse said. "I am looking forward to continuing my career and building on my NBA experience."

Meanwhile, the Cavaliers have suspended guard Eric Snow one game following an altercation with coach Paul Silas during Thursday's 81-69 loss to the Detroit Pistons.

Snow, who is under contract for $5.48 million this season, will serve the suspension Saturday against the Boston Celtics. *AP, AFP*

ARENDER

eener Phelps makes waves oth in and out of the pool

—Teenager Michael Phelps
d the realms of stardom in
tion packed week at the
s Olympic pool.

19-year-old from Baltimore
e focus of attention from the
nt he declared that he would
better fellow American Mark
seven gold medal haul from
72 Munich Olympics.

came away with one world
l, four Olympic records, six
medals and eight medals over-
issing out on the quest for a
h gold with a promise of a
n dollar bonus from his spon-

in the end it didn't seem to
r. His sizzling performance in
s will remain one of Olympic
ning's great achievements.

lps swam 17 times in seven
Spitz, who swam semifinals
in his 100m events,
—and won—13 races in Mu-

Athens Aquatic Centre be-
l to Phelps, who described
perience as "the most beautiful week of my life" as he became the first swimmer and only the second man in any sport to win eight medals in one Games.

PHELPS AP

Superhuman in the pool, the year ended on a sour note however for the teenager when he was arrested for drink driving in Maryland.

But in Athens, Phelps looked as if he could walk on water as he established himself among swimming's elite.

Along with the likes of Australian heroes Ian Thorpe and Grant Hackett and Pieter Van den Hoogenband of the Netherlands, Phelps offered a view of what could be in store in Beijing in four years' time.

Thorpe showed that he is not to be overshadowed when he made the 200m freestyle his own, avenging his defeat by Van den Hoogenband in Sydney four years earlier by overhauling the Dutch swimmer on the final lap.

And Thorpe successfully defended his 400m freestyle title after uncertainty over whether he could compete. He was disqualified from the event for a false start at the Australian trials and got the chance to swim only after teammate Craig Stevens volunteered to stand aside.

Thorpe, undaunted by his third-place finish in the 100m free, said he would focus more on the sprint in the build-up to Beijing, as his haul of two gold, one silver and one bronze made him Australia's most successful Olympian ever.

Van den Hoogenband salved his pride by retaining his 100m free title. *AFP*

arcelona draws with Valencia

RID, Spain—Ronaldinho
rted a 79th-minute penalty
day and FC Barcelona drew
ith Valencia, the first time
anish league leader has not
t home this season.

ending champion Valencia
ted Barcelona, which had
ll seven of its previous games
Camp Nou, in an ill-tempered
nter and took the lead on
Stefano Fiore's 63rd-minute

elona, which had goalkeep-
or Valdes ejected in the 74th
, remains 10 points atop the
ngs.

ere was no fortune in our re-
ly players worked extremely
To stop Barcelona you've got
last and you need a thousand
Valencia coach Claudio
i said.

nother game, Zinedine Zi-
injury-time header earned
Madrid a 3-2 victory at strug-
Racing Santander and moved into second place.

REAL Madrid's Raul Bravo (left) gets a foot in his face from Racing Santander's Fernando Moran. REUTERS

Santander twice led on goals by Israeli forward Yossi Benayoun and striker Javi Guerrero, before Michael Owen and Raul Gonzalez replied for Madrid.

Madrid, which played without Ronaldo, David Beckham and Roberto Carlos, improved to 29 points, moving it past Valencia and Espanyol, which was to play Sunday.

In another game Saturday, Levante drew 1-1 with Albacete. *AP*

PHILIP MORRIS 100's
PREMIUM TASTE, PREMIUM PRIZES!
Open the pack! See if you've won!
Sony Ericsson T630 Phones
Sony Digital Cameras
Sony Discmans
PHILIP MORRIS 100's
1 Grand Prize: BMW Z4

Here's how you can win:

- Open a pack of Philip Morris 100's Flip Top Box. Game panels are printed inside corresponding to the prizes.
- If 3 of the 4 game panels match, you win the prize!
- Winning packs are subject to prize code verification.

You win the BMW Z4!

- Call 736-7222 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-10-7367222 (Outside Metro Manila) for redemption procedures.
- Promo period: November 1 to December 31, 2004.
- All prizes can be claimed up to sixty (60) days after the promo period only.

Open only to smokers 18 years old and above.

Photos may vary from actual units. Per DOH-BFAD Permit

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UST, SSC spikers club foes

By Musong Castillo

UNIVERSITY OF Santo Tomas notched a fifth straight win yesterday, and though it was not in the same pretty manner in which the first four came, it was enough to keep the Tigresses on top of the Shakey's V-League heap.

The defending champions answered the start of each set flat and listless and needed to finish strong each time to hammer out a 25-22, 26-24, 25-19 victory over Lyceum at the Rizal Coliseum.

Later in the day, San Sebastian notched its first win by whipping Far Eastern University, 26-24, 25-16, 25-21.

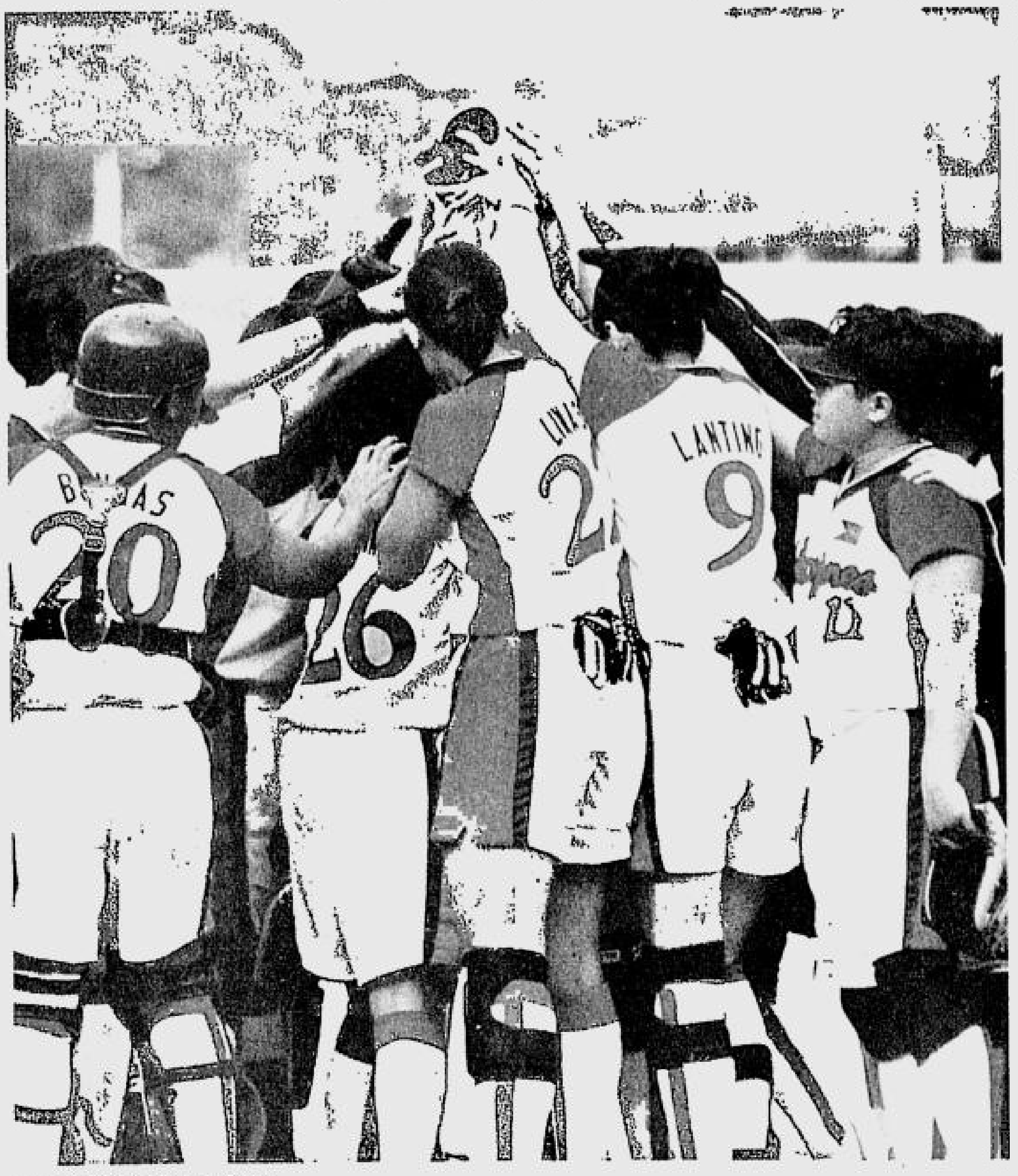
Playing what coach August Sta. Maria described as their worst game in the three-week old tournament, the Tigresses rallied from sizeable deficits all game before improving to 5-0 in less than two hours.

Tall Roxanne Pimentel and Venus Vernal stood at the forefront of the Santo Tomas offense, nailing down the points when needed in a splendid display of superiority in the net which eventually doomed the Lady Pirates.

In a game marked by long rallies and littered with a number of silly errors, Santo Tomas dug deep into its experience and struck when needed most as the Lady Pirates lost for the first time in three games and dropped to 2-3 overall.

The Tigresses fell behind by as many as four early in the first set, by eight in the second and started 2-5 in the third before making a run each time and luckily coming out on top.

"I think my players wanted to go home for the holidays," said Sta. Maria in jest. "It puzzled me why the girls allowed Lyceum to build big leads before they played their game."



THE BEST FOR LAST
The RP Blu Girls celebrate after nosing out South Korea, 10-9, Saturday to clinch fifth place in the Asian women's softball championship.
JESS YUSON

2 early golds for Chinese shuttlers

JAKARTA—Chinese shuttlers took the first two golds in the finals of the Indonesia Badminton Open on Sunday, one in the ladies' singles and another in the mixed doubles.

Second seeded singles player Xie Xinfang had an easy time defeating the only unseeded player to make it into the finals, Japan's Eriko Hirose, with a scoreline of 11-8, 11-0.

In the mixed doubles, China's Olympic team of Zhang Jun and Gao Ling beat England's Robert Blair and Natalie Munt, 15-9, 15-9.

In the first ladies singles' set, Hirose made an impressive comeback after trailing 1-4 behind her much more seasoned Chinese opponent, leveling the scoreline to 4-4.

Long rallies

Mixing long rallies with drop shots, Hirose was further assisted by Xie's errors.

The Japanese player even went ahead 6-4, but her good fortune ended there as the world's seventh-seeded player rediscovered her form and evened the score at 8-8 before wining it, 11-8.

In the second set, a merciless Xie gave Hirose no opportunity to even score a point, securing an 11-0 scoreline with a steep drop shot.

The mixed doubles saw a close first set, with the third-seeded Chinese duo clawing their way back from a four-point deficit despite the English team's strong and accurate smashes.

The Chinese began to gain the upper hand after 9-9 and took the set without letting the fourth-seeded English team score another point.

Tight game

The early part of the second set was also played tightly between the two pairs but again, the Chinese found their form in the later part of the set, especially after they got to a 12 points to nine lead.

An innacurate smash by Munt gave the second set to the Chinese who had won the two previous points by lodging sharp smashes into their opponent's camp. *AFP*

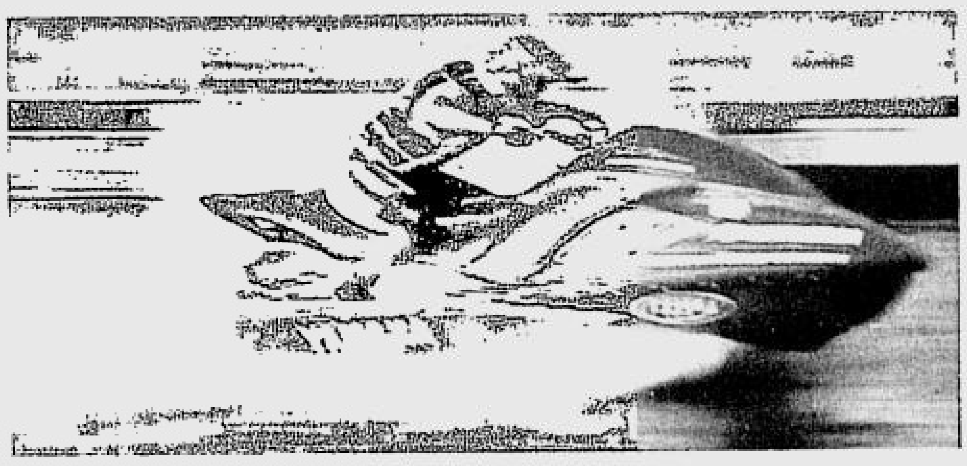
Del Rosario just misses King's Cup Open title

PAUL del Rosario, the country's ace jet ski rider, proved he's one of the best in Asia by salvaging overall runner-up honors in the World Watercross King's Cup Thailand Open 2004 at the Korat Airforce Base here recently.

Although his jet ski was unfit for the small tight closed course track, the two-time RP national champion ruled the final race to clinch second place in the 13-man field of the premiere Professional 1200 cc class that included Australian champions Anthony Antees and James Masterton.

"It was one tough event and I'm proud to bring home the runner-up trophy for the country," said Del Rosario, who's backed up by Petron Corp., Manila Cordage Corp., Networx Jetsports, Stoked Inc. and D7 Media Vision.

Del Rosario, who had just recovered from dengue fever and still experienced asthma attacks when he came here, competed on a 2004 Yamaha boat which Americans Mark Dobson and David Harvey rushed to build and tested for only two weeks.



RP jet ski ace salvages second place.

With the tight course, it was no match for the powerful Seadoo RXP and XPL of the Thais, but Del Rosario proved his mettle nevertheless in his Pro class debut.

Former world champion and top Thai rider Chokuthit Molee of Thailand's Team Flamingo won the event and bagged the prestigious King's Cup—a 20-lb two-feet tall gold-plated trophy carried by Thailand's national guards and placed next to the portrait of their king.

He finished the four-race event with 198 points, just one point over Del Rosario. Ekchon Kingchansil of Thailand's N. Max-Maxima Team Paw took third place honors.

Del Rosario's feat made up for his disappointment at the World Jet Ski Championship in Lake Havasu, Arizona, in October where he was "allegedly" denied of the crown.

"A Philippine Show of Force" was how King's Cup race director Justine Lee described the performance of Del Rosario, who was accompanied in Thailand by RP-Networx team manager Dong Arcilla, mechanics Yannick Elnar, Edwin Copino, brother Robert Raymond del Rosario and dad Bobby del Rosario.

Molee was ahead in the title race after three moto races, but Del Rosario, knowing he could still wrest the crown, quickly grabbed the pole leaving the Thai world champ's Seadoo XPL far behind in fifth.

Kingchansil caught up with him in the last five laps but Del Rosario took the checkered flag just two feet ahead of Kingchansil at the finish.

Molee, who had accumulated enough points in the first three races, had to finish third in the final race to emerge the overall champion.

Whatever happened to the probe of imported race horses?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IN July 2003, 17 race horses from Australia arrived by chartered flight in Subic Bay under controversial circumstances. The importation generated much publicity mainly because the race horses were initially reported to have been flown into the country without paying taxes upon the recommendation of the Philippine Sports Commission. It was also reported that the said race horses were allegedly bought by Presidential son, then Pampanga Vice Governor Mikey Arroyo, with associates Lamberto Almeda Jr. and Dante Arevalo as the dummy.

If I remember right, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission was supposed to look into the controversy, but up to now there are no results of the reported probe.

Incidentally, one of the imported horses, American Woman, recently made a big impact on the local racing scene by establishing a new track record at the San Lazaro Leisure Park. The horse is also slated to participate in a forthcoming championship race.

Sources said that someone very influential had ordered the imported race horses not to be run anymore to prevent the public from talking about it, but the principals have defied the order. "*Nagpalamig lamang sila pero tinatakbo na ngayon ang mga kabayo* (they only stopped for a while, but they are allowing the horses to run now)."

Almeda and Arevalo later said they had paid the required taxes and presented documents to prove they were the owners of the race horses and not Mikey Arroyo. Almeda, in particular, said he paid taxes amounting to P525,222 although the receipt he showed was dated Sept. 23 or nearly one month after the arrival of the 17 race horses.

On the other hand, PSC chair Eric Buhain admitted he entered into a memorandum of understanding with Almeda wherein the PSC would purchase from among the 17 several horses the agency planned to use in the PSC equestrian program following Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski's gold medal performance in the Busan Asian Games. But the deal did not push through because the PSC did not have the needed funds.

By the way, why did the fans boo Mikey Arroyo when he was introduced during Manny Pacquiao's recent fight at the Fort in Taguig? Was it a sign that the people are now growing weary of Mikey's newfound lifestyle? They say Mikey, who is now a congressman, was a nondescript young man whose early love among other pleasures in life was to own thoroughbred race horses. According to those-in-the-know, Mikey started with only a few horses, among these, Samahan and Sky Shuttle, but today the number of horses he reportedly owns is close to 50. Some people are simply born lucky, *di ba*?

***

SWEEPSTAKES DAILY DRAW. Kudos to Nilo Chincuanco, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office assistant general manager for production and marketing, for introducing the "Sweepstakes Daily Draw" which entitles a ticket-holder multiple chances of winning daily with just one ticket. Here's how it works:

Each ticket is worth P10. Every day, a winning ticket is drawn. All tickets are included in the draw for an entire month, which means that a person that buys a ticket has multiple chances of winning, starting on the day he buys a ticket and continues up to the end of the month. And even if a ticket has already won the daily jackpot, it can still be drawn again and win for the rest of the month. A jackpot prize of P100,000 and consolation prizes totaling another P100,000 will be drawn daily. Draws are held every 4 p.m. at the PCSO Draw Court, third floor, PCSO Main Building on E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

***

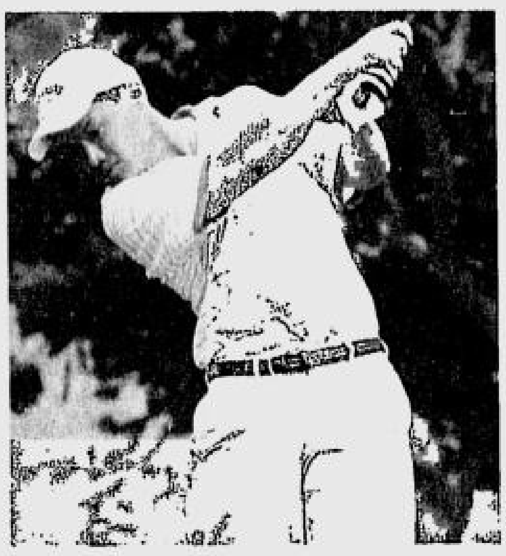
BIG LETDOWN. Many are asking why only two gold medals will be at stake in the dancesport competitions of the Southeast Asian Games next year. They say it is one sport where the Philippines could win not only two but from eight to 10 gold medals in the SEA Games. Filipino dance athletes have been performing extraordinarily well in recent years and that some of them, particularly the Latin dancers, are now ranked among the best in the Asia-Pacific region. These athletes are our strongest bets to win medals in the 2005 SEA Games, yet local officials did not see it that way. A pity.

Get A Brand New
NISSAN SERENA NOW!
Own a brand new 2005 Nissan Serena AT/MT at very Affordable Payment Plans!
It's never been this buyer-friendly! Available at new exciting colors, lunar silver, golden pewter, velvet black and glacier white. So, take one home now!!!

	SRP		DP
MT -	P 1,280,000	MT -	P 128,000
AT -	P 1,480,000	AT -	P 148,000

Equipped with Comtrac Seat! (Bucket Seat)
Get a chance to win P1 MILLION in "Catch your P1,000,000 Dream Deal Promo"
Get a chance to win an X-TRAIL in "Catch your Dream Drive Promo"
ONLY AT: MANTRADE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
2278 Pasong Tamo Extention, Makati City • Tels: 843-3316 to 23
Direct Line: 812-7701 / 7743 / 7752 • Fax: 817-8257
NISSAN MANILA
2210 J. Abad Santos Ave. corner Batangas St., Tondo, Manila
Tels.: 252-3566 • 251-9058 • 251-9060 to 63
NISSAN

Gamboa, So rule Chairman's Cup


SO: Low gross champ

RHAIS Gamboa and Hanson So Jr., saving their best for last, displayed excellent shotmaking to run away with the overall net and gross titles Saturday in the annual Chairman's Cup, the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club's final major event for the year.

Gamboa fired a net 61 and So Jr. matched par at the par-72 Legends course to dominate a record field of 500 players in the two-day meet presented by Mitsubishi-Diamond Motors, Royal Caribbean, Northwest Airlines, Wilson Sports, Thai Airways and Globe Platinum.

Over at the relatively harder and longer Masters course, Eugene Arriesgado carded a net 68 to clinch Class A honors. Hanson So Sr., father of the overall gross victor, was a shot back and placed second.

The Class B trophy went to Camp John Hay's senior vice president for marketing, Shean Bedi, who won over Sed Rosero via a lower handicap after making identical 67s.

Billy Gualberto (Class C), Yue Gang Wen (Class D), Jose Tojino (Class E), Cora Say (ladies) and Doy Tan (guests/sponsors) were the champions in the other divisions.

Eugene Villanueva likewise joined the winners' circle when he won a brand-new Mitsubishi Lancer GLX, part of the huge array of raffle prizes worth P4 million that were given away during the Retro-themed awards night. Antonio Sy bagged the Royal Caribbean cruise and the world-class business class tickets to Miami, Florida, while Ed Guevarra got a complete Wilson Irons set.

Turf Co., Nestle, Club Leisure, CJH Dev't Co., CJH Manor, Britesmile, Miramar Tuna Belly, Starmaker Saud Beach Resort, TMS Shipping Agency, Evergreen, Kork Inc., Hotshots, Figaro, C-Lium, Vein Care Clinic, Phil. Wine Merchants and Citibank were major sponsors of the event held in honor of club chair Robert John Sobrepeña.

Sobrepeña again lauded the munificence of the sponsors for their continuous support of all Southwoods activities.

"On behalf of the board of directors, management and staff, we express our deepest gratitude to them, most especially to the presenters who have become the club's partners this year," he said.

Nadera keeps top spot in Iligan chess

INTERNATIONAL Master Barlo Nadera of Mandaue City downed FIDE Master Oliver Dimakiling with black in 37 moves of a Trompovsky Opening to remain on top after yesterday's seventh round of the 2004 Iligan Open chess tournament at the Alfresco Park and Dinner in Barangay Camaqui in Iligan City.

The top-seeded Nadera of the Philippine Air Force now has 6.5 points to remain on course for the P30,000 top prize of this nine-round Swiss tournament.

IM Richard Bitoon beat fellow Cebuano and NM Elwin Retanal to move into a tie for second place with NM Rustum Tolentino of Cagayan De Oro City and Edmundo Gatus of Tondo, Manila with 6 points.

Tolentino topped Mardonio Fuentes of Misamis Occidental while Gatus beat Henry Lopez of Panabo, Davao respectively.

Tied for fifth were NM Levi Mercado of Cagayan De Oro City and Erwin Ababat of Cebu with 5.5 points.

Reigning Misamis Occidental Open champion IM Ronald "Onat" Bancod of Quezon City has 5 points along with FM Oliver Dimakiling, NM Ernesto Absin, NM Fernandito Pialan, NM Cesar Caturla and Jake Gonzales.

With Lorenzo "Jun" Cuizon as chief arbiter, the P90,000 tournament has attracted 73 players including three IMs, two FMs and 10 NMs.

Meanwhile, the 2004 Cagayan de Oro Mixed Master Open Chess Tournament will be held on Dec. 21-23 at the Inilog Grill and Music Bar.

For inquiries, please contact Cuizon at mobile no. (0915) 413-2416.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

SPORTSWATCH

Pasay 4-cock derby up

ANOTHER exciting 4-cock derby will feature more than 60 fights tonight at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. At stake is P300,000 with the PCC employees as hosts. Majority of tonight's participants also took part in last week's 143-entry Pasko Sa Pasay derby won by Jessie Bautista of Pangasinan (Final Questor II), Raffy and Rene Lagado (Cruz de Jerusalem), Joan Salazar (Solitaria) and Abu Centeno (Bakbakan Sa Pampanga). The event will be sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten. Meanwhile, the "Super 2-Cock Ulutan/Fastest Kill" is set on Dec. 22 with more than 150 small-time cockers and breeders seeing action. Call 843-1746, 843-1890 and 816-6750.

Asiad 3K Fun Run

OVER 300 school children from the city of Manila joined and finished the Asian Games 3K Fun Run early Sunday morning to celebrate sports and highlight the 15th Asian Games scheduled in Doha, Qatar, in 2006. Organized by the Olympic Council of Asia to promote the forthcoming quadrennial event, similar races have been held earlier this year in Vietnam, Turkmenistan, Bhutan, Lebanon and Mongolia. "We are delighted that our friends from the Philippine Olympic Committee have worked with is for a successful staging of the Asian Games FUn RUn in Manila, sports empowers us all to achieve and bring a sense of unity across a breadth of race, ethnicity, religion, and gender and this fun run epitomizes this aim and helps strengthen the OCA objective of developing understanding and friendship throughout the continent," said OCA president H.E. Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al Sabah in a released statement.

H
May Your Christmas be a Season of Hope
HOPE
HOPE
HOPE LUXURY FILTER CIGARETTES MENTHOL KINGS
HOPE LUXURY FILTER CIGARETTES MENTHOL 100'S

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

BEAT The Christmas RUSH!

NEW NISSAN 1.6 GSX M T
P 65,000 DP

NEW NISSAN 1.8 G
P 888,000
30% DP / 18 MOS. / 0% INTEREST

X-TRAIL
P 1,299,000
30% DP / 18 MOS. / 0% INTEREST

CEFIRO 300 EX
P 1,450,000
30% DP / 18 MOS. / 0% INTEREST
3 LITER ENGINE AT 214 HP

COUNTDOWN:
10
DAYS TO GO FOR A CHANCE
TO WIN AN
X-TRAIL
Promo Period Sept 17 - Dec. 30, 2004
See print ad for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2077 Series of 2004

PROMO PERIOD
NOV. 10 - DEC. 30, 2004

SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR CASH BUYERS • P100T D/P SCHEME AVAILABLE FOR ALL X-TRAIL VARIANTS

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5602 Series of 2004

Mantrade Development Corp.
Tels.: 843-3316 to 23 / Fax: 817-8257
DL: 812-7701 / 7743 / 7752

Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue / Ortigas
Tels.: 731-5308 • 711-6486 Fax: 740-3066
Tel.: 635-5888 / Fax: 633-2543

Nissan North EDSA Balintawak
Tels.: 330-5331 • 361-9995 / DL.: 455-8980

Nissan West Gate
Tels.: 772-1826 to 30
DL: 775-0239 • Fax: 772-1877

Nissan Commonwealth
Tels.: 932-0428 • 932-4001 / Fax: 931-6087

Nissan Manila
Tels.: 252-3566 • 251-9060 to 63 • 251-9056

Nissan UN Avenue Manila
Tels.: 400-1020 • 400-2177 • 400-1522 • 404-2439

NISSAN

Real Spicy simply too hot for foes

Wins Juvenile race by 6 lengths and with plenty left to spare

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

REAL Spicy ran the one-mile (1,600 meters) distance for the first time yesterday and easily conquered it as well as his rivals in the 2004 Juvenile Championship at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

Showing his versatility, the prized chestnut of Hermie Esguerra simply tucked in behind Tiger Song and stablemate Euro Bucks in the early going before exploding away at the home turn to prevail with still a lot of speed in reserve.

At the end of the contest, Real Spicy was six lengths in front of Tiger Song, with Euro Bucks holding on to third spot, seven lengths adrift.

"*Sobrang magaling, tingin ko magiging paborito sa* Triple Crown *sa isang taon* (He's so good, I think he'll be the favorite in the Triple Crown next year)," said ace jockey Pat Dilema on the son of 1998 US Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale.

With trainer Andrew Sanchez instructing him to let the horse glide along should anyone challenge them for the early lead, Dilema confidently wheeled Real Spicy within range of the pacesetters before stepping on the gas at the far turn.

By the time they bounded off the last bend, there was no denying Real Spicy as he whizzed by Tiger Song and Euro Bucks, giving Dilema all the luxury of looking over his shoulders in search of the opposition down the stretch.

"*Mahirap na yatang makakita uli ng kabayong kasinggaling niya ngayon* as a two-year-old (It seems it's hard to find a horse as good as he is right now). He reminds me a lot of my horse Time Master," said Sanchez, the former jai-alai star known as "Filipino," comparing Real Spicy with his former Triple Crown champion.

The win, Real Spicy's sixth straight since Aug. 27, was worth P1 million for Esguerra, who is currently in Sydney, Australia, to attend to his daughter's wedding. The Plaridel, Bulacan, sportsman-businessman also got P209,250 for Euro Bucks' third-place finish.

Calling from Down Under, Esguerra said : "*Salamat nakaraos tayo* (Thanks we pulled through). I would like to commend Dilema, my trainers and all the staff of the Esguerra Stable. And to the racing fans, thank you, thank you and Merry Christmas."

Tiger Song, ridden by Louie Balboa, settled for P376,750. Money for Rap arrived fourth, edging Real Spicy's coupled entry, Eye Candy, then came Cool Mount, In Command and Manila Magic. Pyramid Relaunch was scratched due to injury.

"Based on his performance, he has a good chance in the coming Triple Crown. We'll rest him for a while and race him again probably by late January next year," added Sanchez, also a former Philracom chair.

Justino "Nick" Atienza, Esguerra's other thoroughbred conditioner, received the huge Juvenile champion's trophy from Philracom head Jimmy Dilag, who announced the holding of more major races in 2005 with bigger prizes and incentives.

Real Spicy, who cornered P1,178,886 in daily double sales out of P1,328,620, covered the route in a fast 1:40 flat (25-24-24.5-26.5), a second shy of the record.

Anticipating what his rivals would employ, Dilema expertly held Real Spicy tight and did not bite the bait of Tiger Song. Instead, it was the Virgilio Camañero Jr.-guided Euro Bucks, more known as a stayer, who battled the pacesetter, giving Real Spicy ample time to strike when ready.

NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT

What is Cosmetic-Transdermal Reconstruction? (CTR™)

Ask us how we can provide you with CTR™ the original and most requested hair restoration process.

Special thanks to all our loyal customers for 8 great years.

Your friendly staff at Image Associates, Inc.

8th YEAR ANNIVERSARY

FREE CONSULTATION BROCHURE
CALL NOW:
845-0879
924-1894

A cosmetically significant increase in Hair Density Guranteed!

Makati Office: Suite 714 Herrera Tower, 98 Herrera Cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City Tel. Nos.: 845-0879 / 845-1663 Fax: 845-1711
Quezon City Office:Suites 401-402 Columbian Bldg.,160 West Ave., Q.C. Tel.: 924-1894 / 924-1895 Fax: 924-1896
Cebu offices: Tel.: (032) 256-0347 Tel/Fax: (032) 256-0320

IMAGE ASSOCIATES
www.imageenhancementgroup.com

UPMG
United Print Media Group
presents

1ST PRINT MEDIA BADMINTON CUP

> Brotherhood > Sportsmanship > Camaraderie

Level A Champions

Men's Doubles
Mr. Gener Godoy & Mr. Joel Estrada
(Atlas Publishing)

Mixed Doubles
Mr. Rommel Dilla & Ms. Ma. Teresa David
(Sheridan)

Ladies Doubles
Ms. Alma Bringas & Ms. Maria Teresa Dayan
(Sheridan)

Level B Champions

Men's Doubles
Mr. Rey Garcia & Mr. Frumencio Bernal
(PNP)

Mixed Doubles
Ms. Grace Bernal & Mr. Rey Garcia
(PNP / Malaya)

Ladies Doubles
Ms. Roxy Arabie & Ms. Tess Polo
(Prime Image)

Level C Champions

Men's Doubles
Mr. Carlo Mercado & Mr. Bong Viray
(Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Mixed Doubles
Mr. Jojo Sansano & Ms. Rina Dy
(Euro - RSCG)

Ladies Doubles
Ms. Maria Christine Francia &
Ms. Maria Cecilia Francisco
(Malaya)

RX93.1 Media Blends Discovery Burlington adidas nappa Festival Supermall Home 97.9 Radio 105.1 Crossover
Official Shuttlecock and Racquet by prince
excite

1st Print Media Badminton Cup

FUTURE BECKHAMS: Charles Lazaro of South Ridge, Laguna battles for position against Benson Bautista of Oriental Mindoro in the Red Ribbon football tournament at the Ateneo field. RUDY ESPERAS

AGE-GROUP TENNIS

Villarete, Patrimonio champions

PHILIPPINE Columbian Association's Raymond Villarete crushed Christian Canlas, 6-1, 6-2, to rule the 18-under division finals of the Muslim "Wahab" Akbar age-group tennis championships at the Philippine Columbian Association courts in Plaza Dilao, Paco.

Villarete, who led eight other netters, bagged his first major win in the local age-group scene.

Christine Patrimonio, daughter of basketball legend Alvin Patrimonio, easily defeated Regina Santiago, 6-2, 6-2, to dominate the girls 14-under.

The win was a sort of revenge for Patrimonio after Santiago bested her younger sister, Clarice Patrimonio, 6-3, 6-1, to take the girls 12-under title.

Clarice, the top seed in the 12-under girls class, defeated Irina Quinatadcan in the semifinals, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1.

Villarete became the first unseeded player to make the semifinals after repulsing Niko Katigbak, 6-0, 6-0.

Ken Patrick Arevalo, younger brother of RP's No. 1 women's player Czarina Mae Arevalo, kept the winning tradition by beating Vincent Atienza, 6-3, 6-2, to top the boys 14-under.

Arevalo tripped Jose Opulencia, 6-3, 6-4, in the semifinals.

Tim Polero defeated Dheo Taltayod, 7-5, 6-4, to rule the 10-under unisex division.

Kim Saraza trounced Kyle Cordero, 6-3, 6-0, to capture the boys 12-under.

In the girls 16-under division, Trudy Amoranto outlasted Julie Em Botor, 6-4, 6-3, for the title.

James Murrell bagged the boys 16-under title after thwarting Mikoff Manduriao, 6-2, 4-0 (retired).

Michelle Pang dominated the girls 18-under category after defeating Amoranto, 7-5, 6-2, .

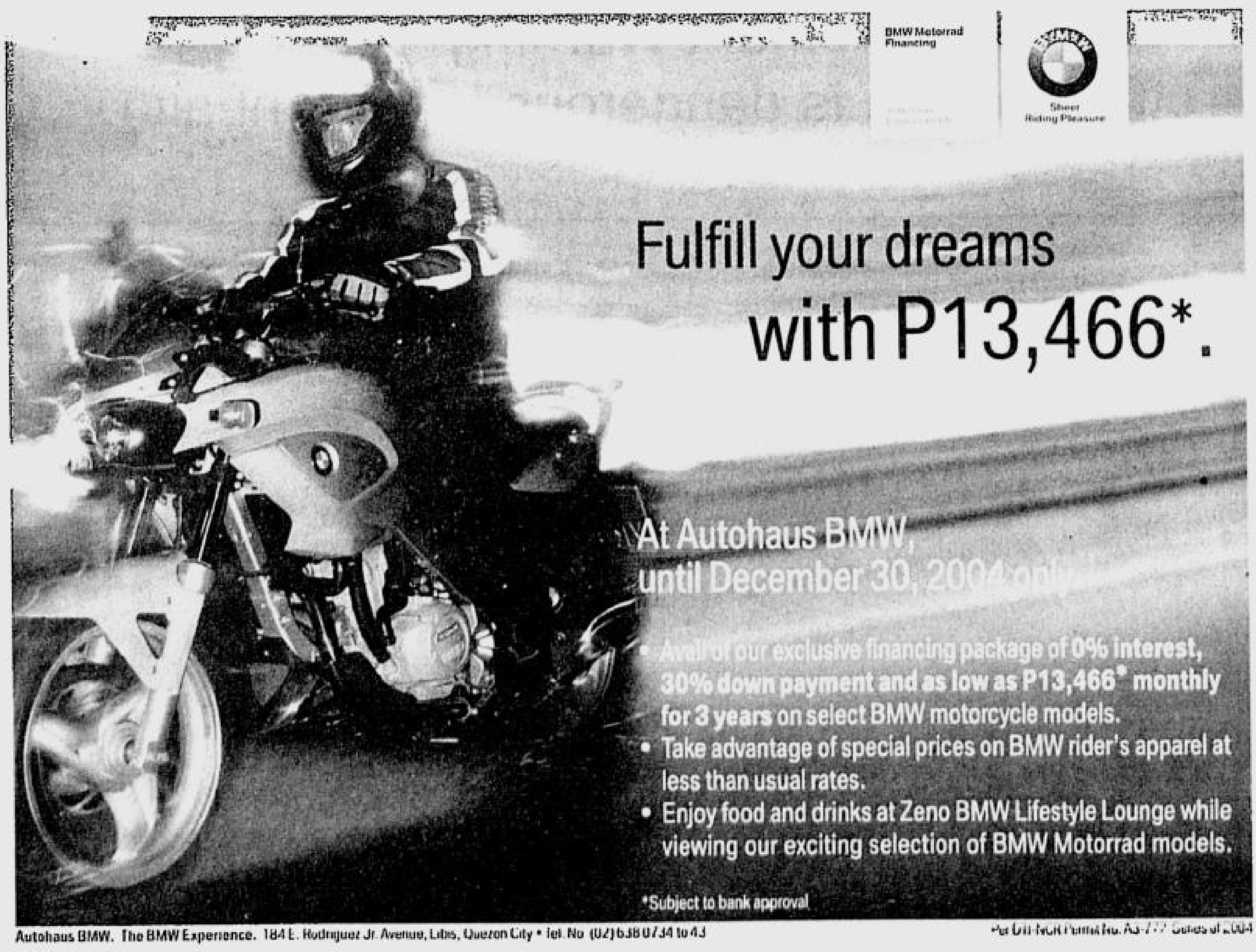
Amoranto defeated Angelica Ngo, 6-3, 6-0, while Pang shrugged off Botor, 6-4, 6-0, before reaching the finals.

Akbar, who awarded the trophies to the winners, said the event is aimed at discovering new talents for future international competitions.

"This is my dream. To see kids four or five years from now representing and winning in the international tennis scene including the Davis Cup," he said.

"With enough tournaments to hone their skills and proper training program, I believe this is not a far-fetched dream," added the Basilan governor, who also presented the successful PCA Open last month.

The event was sponsored by Dynamic Sports Corp., Chris Sports Plaza and Penn balls.



BMW Motorrad Financing
Sheer Riding Pleasure

Fulfill your dreams with P13,466*.

At Autohaus BMW, until December 30, 2004 only.

- Avail of our exclusive financing package of 0% interest, 30% down payment and as low as P13,466* monthly for 3 years on select BMW motorcycle models.
- Take advantage of special prices on BMW rider's apparel at less than usual rates.
- Enjoy food and drinks at Zeno BMW Lifestyle Lounge while viewing our exciting selection of BMW Motorrad models.

*Subject to bank approval

Autohaus BMW. The BMW Experience. 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City • Tel. No. (02) 638 0734 to 43

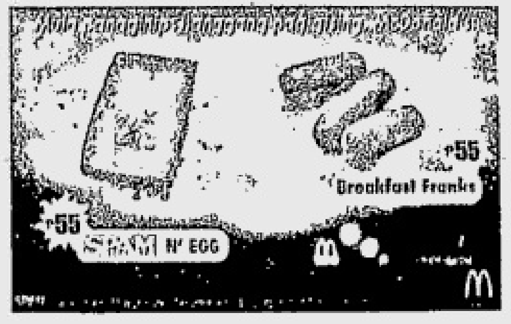
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-[illegible] Series of 2004

Don't miss
your favorite TV shows!
Check out today's
Inquirer TV Guide
in the
Entertainment section
Happy Viewing!

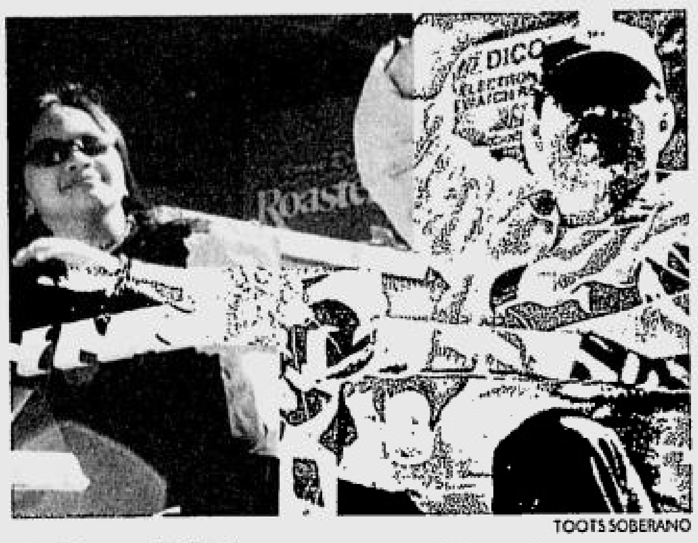
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to (Smart)


₱55 SPAM N' EGG
₱55 Breakfast Franks

WHAT'S INSIDE


TOOTS SOBERANO

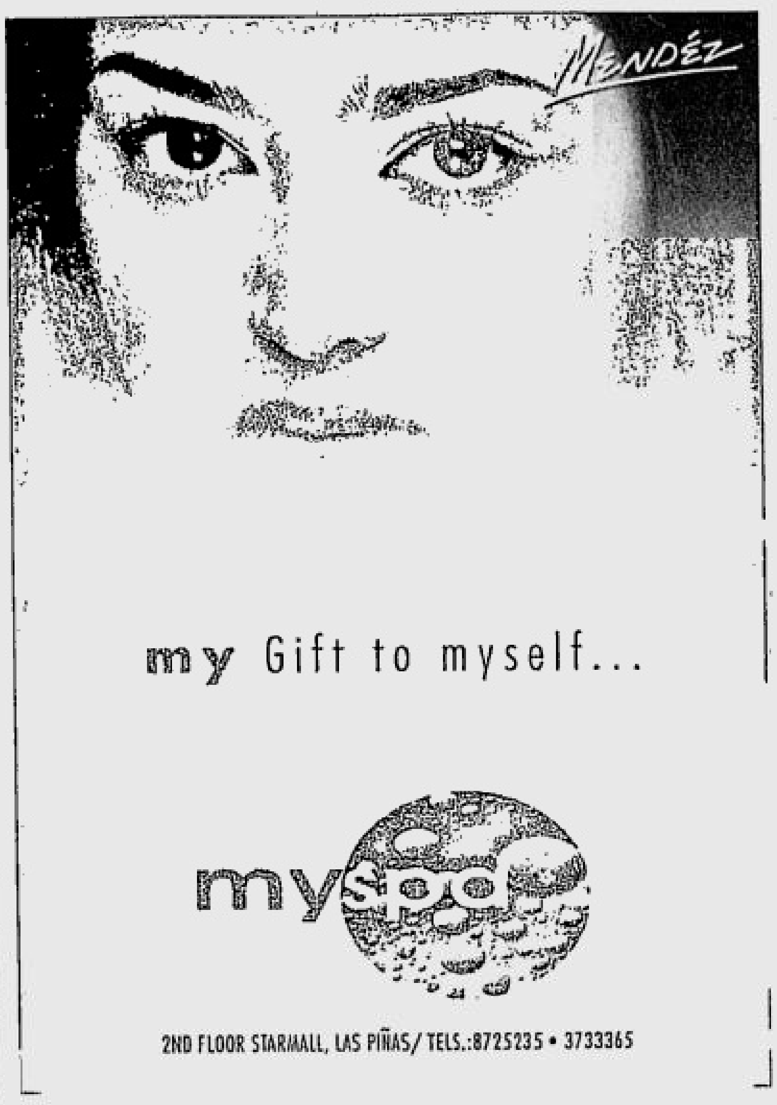
FPJ's spirit looms over Baguio filmfest parade / A34

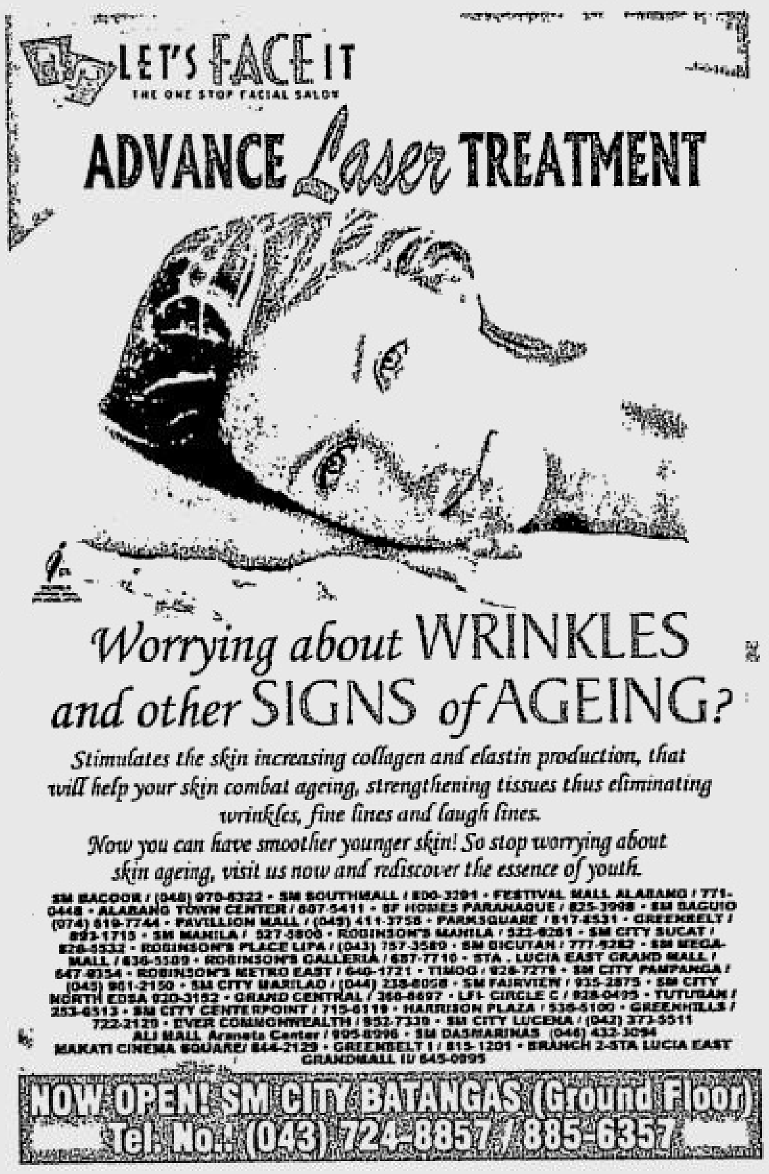
REM ZAMORA

Old stuff, souvenirs in Cesar Montano's closet / A36

New filmmakers' strengths and weaknesses / A39

Divina Valencia comes home for 'Da King' / A35


MENDÉZ
my Gift to myself...
myspa
2ND FLOOR STARMALL, LAS PIÑAS/ TELS.:8725235 • 3733365


LET'S FACE IT
THE ONE STOP FACIAL SALON
ADVANCE Laser TREATMENT

Worrying about WRINKLES and other SIGNS of AGEING?

Stimulates the skin increasing collagen and elastin production, that will help your skin combat ageing, strengthening tissues thus eliminating wrinkles, fine lines and laugh lines.

Now you can have smoother younger skin! So stop worrying about skin ageing, visit us now and rediscover the essence of youth.

SM BACOOR / (046) 970-6322 • SM SOUTHMALL / 800-3291 • FESTIVAL MALL ALABANG / 771-0448 • ALABANG TOWN CENTER / 807-5411 • BF HOMES PARANAQUE / 825-3998 • SM BAGUIO (074) 619-7744 • PAVILLION MALL / (049) 411-3758 • PARKSQUARE / 817-8531 • GREENBELT / 893-1715 • SM MANILA / 527-5806 • ROBINSON'S MANILA / 522-6261 • SM CITY SUCAT / 826-5532 • ROBINSON'S PLACE LIPA / (043) 757-3580 • SM BICUTAN / 777-5282 • SM MEGA-MALL / 636-5509 • ROBINSON'S GALLERIA / 687-7710 • STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL / 647-8354 • ROBINSON'S METRO EAST / 640-1721 • TIMOG / 928-7279 • SM CITY PAMPANGA / (045) 961-2150 • SM CITY MARILAO / (044) 238-6058 • SM FAIRVIEW / 935-2875 • SM CITY NORTH EDSA 920-3152 • GRAND CENTRAL / 366-6697 • LFI- CIRCLE C / 928-0495 • TUTUBAN / 253-6513 • SM CITY CENTERPOINT / 715-6119 • HARRISON PLAZA / 536-5100 • GREENHILLS / 722-2120 • EVER COMMONWEALTH / 952-7339 • SM CITY LUCENA / (042) 373-5511
ALI MALL Araneta Center / 995-8996 • SM DASMARINAS (046) 432-3094
MAKATI CINEMA SQUARE/ 844-2129 • GREENBELT 1 / 815-1201 • BRANCH 2-STA LUCIA EAST GRANDMALL II/ 645-0995

NOW OPEN! SM CITY BATANGAS (Ground Floor)
Tel. No.: (043) 724-8857 / 885-6357

Kumpleto ang Pasko kapag may Zest-O!

Available in: Orange • Mango • Strawberry • Grape • Dalandan • Apple • Pineapple • Guyabano • Calamansi • Mango-Orange • Mango-Calamansi • Mango-Lemonlime

The No.1 Juice Drink

Spirit of 'Da King' looms over Baguio film fest parade

By Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The show must go on.

And so this city's parade of stars for the Metro Manila Film Festival-Philippines went on as scheduled on Wednesday despite the recent death of actor Fernando Poe Jr., acknowledged "king" of local cinema.

But actors Cesar Montano, Joel Torre, Sarah Geronimo, Mark Bautista, Paulo Contis and Aiza Seguerra opted to tour the city in barely decorated floats, their own gesture of mourning, according to one of the festival organizers.

Montano said he and the other stars attended the festival parade, held later in the day after Poe's death, because they wanted to "continue [his] legacy."

Speaking in Filipino, the actor told more than 500 people gathered at the SM City Baguio after the parade: "We know 'Da King's' heart was devoted to making people happy," Montano said in Filipino. "So we have to carry on."

Montano produced and directed the Visayan movie, "Panaghoy sa Suba," one of the eight festival entries.

Jeers

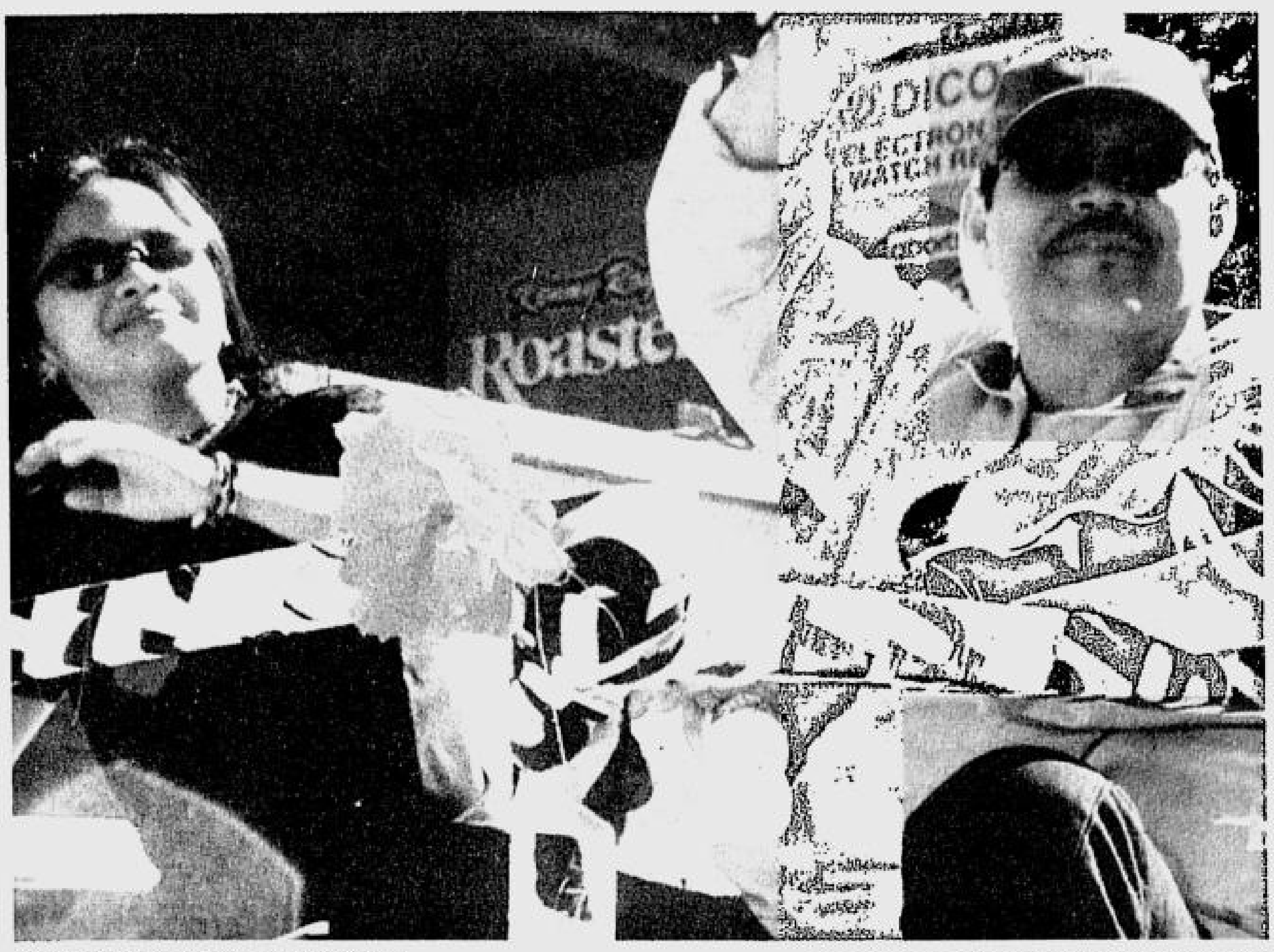
Not all of the floats had stars in them. Residents who waited as early as 8 a.m. for the parade jeered at float participants they could not recognize: "Why didn't you bring more famous stars? What kind of parade is this)?"

Montano said later, "Many of our colleagues could not make it. Had Mr. Poe not died, more would have come here."

"I'm sure 'Da King' would love it that we are carrying the torch," added Torre, Montano's co-star.

Montano, Torre and Ronnie Lazaro were on

SPIRIT/ A39



AIZA Seguerra (left) and Dick Ysrael

PHOTOS BY TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO City Mayor B. Yaranon (left) and Pinky Chan Rondes

THE SAN MIGUEL FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
THE SAN MIGUEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
THE SAN MIGUEL MASTER CHORALE

events! events!

December 20, 2004, 7:00 PM
The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra
& The San Miguel Master Chorale
with Ryan Cayabyab

MERRY! MERRY! CAROLING

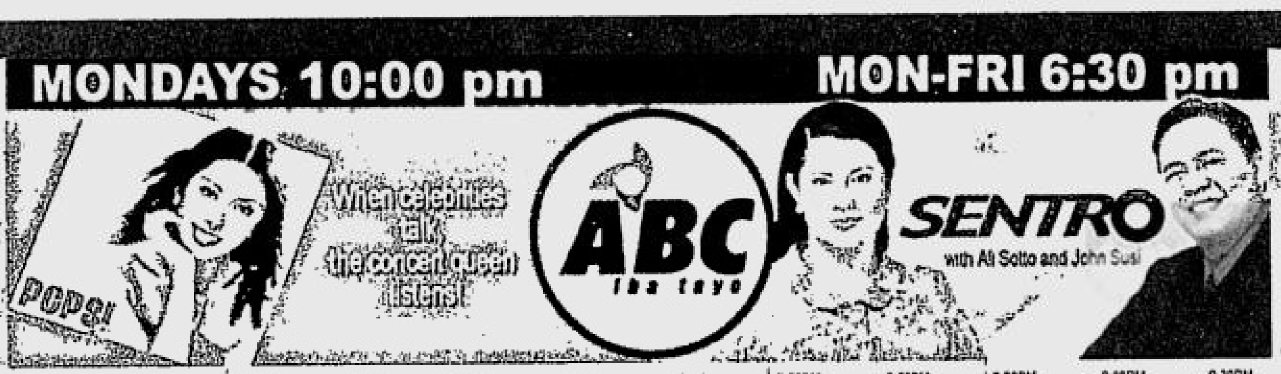
December 21, 2004
Children's Joy Foundation
3pm Activity Center • 5pm & 7pm Central Plaza

December 22, 2004
Kaibigan Vocal Ensemble
3pm Activity Center • 5pm & 7pm Central Plaza

December 23, 2004
Philippine Symphonic Band
3pm Activity Center • 5pm & 7pm Central Plaza

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Monday, December 20, 2004

MONDAYS 10:00 pm
MON-FRI 6:30 pm



Pops!
When celebrities talk the concert queen listens!
ABC ika tayo
SENTRO
with Ali Sotto and John Susi

ClickTheCity.com
Visit www.clickthecity.com
Key in GTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50

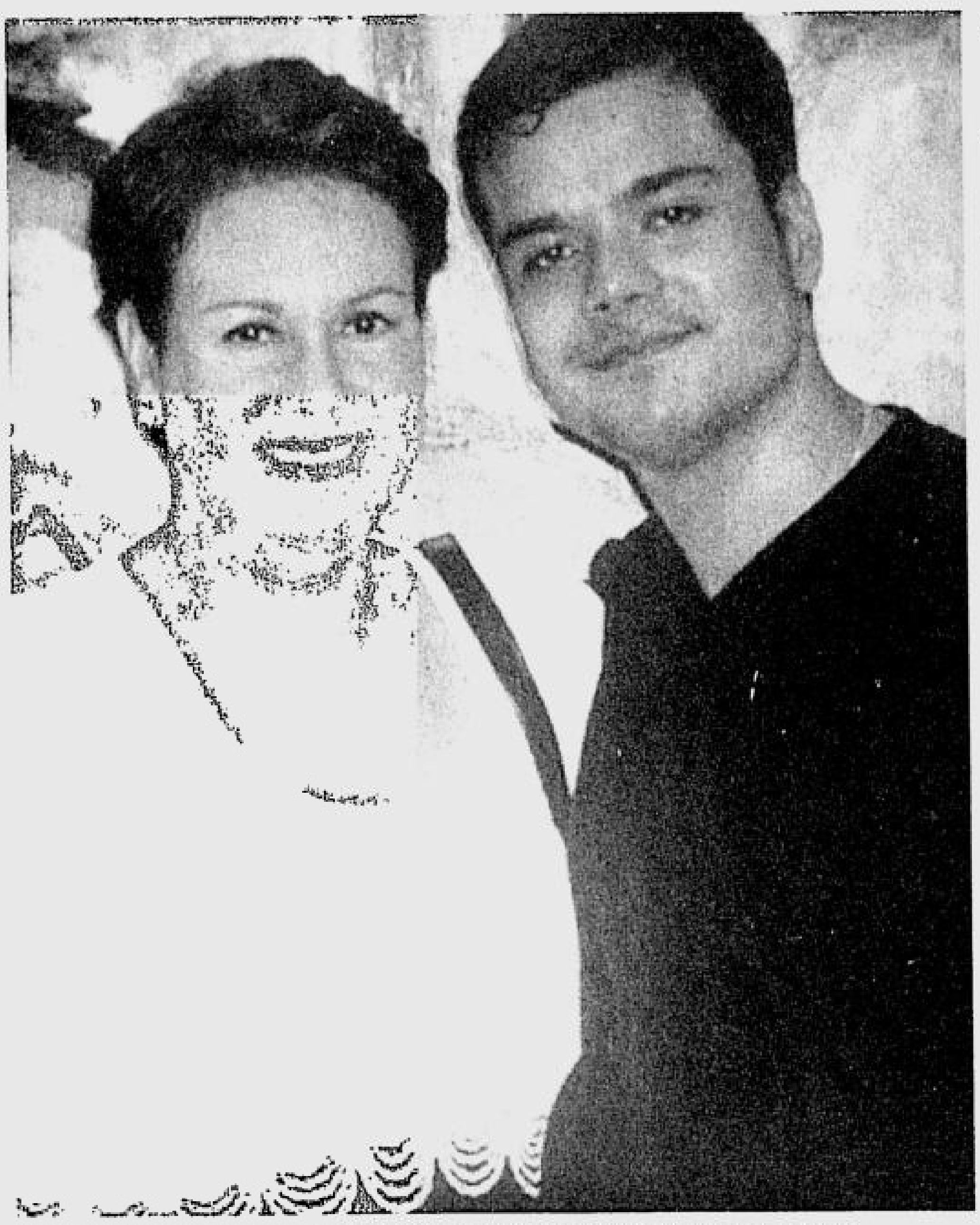
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2				Showbiz No. 1	Sandara's Romance	Get Backers	Ragnarok	Masked Rider Ryuki	TV Patrol	Spirits	Krystala	Lovers In Paris	Hiram	Star Circle Nat'l Teen Quest	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider	The Correspondents
NBN	Value Vision				Teledyaryo	Value Vision	Next Stop			Network Forum		Teledyaryo		Muscom Cup 2003				Dial M	
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	Art Is-Kool	Anime Ring Kasho				Sentro	Friends	The Apprentice		Fear Factor		Big News	Pops!		Extreme Island	Billboard On-Air
GMA 7	Leya (2:45 PM)	Joyride (3:15 PM)	Snow Angel (3:45 PM)		One Piece	Witch Hunter Robin	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin	Starstruck (8:45 PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:15 PM) Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi		
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	Wrestling		NBA On RPN					Newswatch Now	Sex & the City	Wed TV	Hotline
IBC 13		V League				IBC Express Balita		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Japan Video Topic		Retro TV	Global Family Series		IBC News Tonite	Linawin Natin	
Solar		Wow		Slambol		Resto!	Zeta Project	Mucha Lucha!	Spiderman	Deep Space Nine		Witchblade		Twilight Zone		Love Is A Gun			
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Brother's Garcia	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	All That	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	Rocket Power	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brother's Garcia
MYX		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	OPM MYX Countdown		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		The O.C.		Saturday Night Live		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	JKX	Meet My Folks		Queer Eye For A Straight Guy		Dateline		Nip/Tuck	
Cinema One		Wala Nang Ibang Pang Iba				Ano Ang Kulay Ng Mukha Ng Diyos				Cuoro Ep 1				Bubbles Aliwan Gang				Gagamboy	
Studio 23	Bewitched	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	Batman Animated Series	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup	World's Craziest Video	Jake 2.0		Charmed		News Central	The West Wing		Travel Time
AXN		Gensomaden Saiyuki		Gensomaden Saiyuki		The Right Stuff II	Rated X	Gensomaden Saiyuki	Gensomaden Saiyuki	Boomtown		Fear Factor		The Shield		24		24	
Star World	When Hidden Cameras Attack	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	That 70s Show	Everybody Loves Raymond	Grounded For Life	Becker	Breaking The Magician's Code		Friends	That 70s Show
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic	On Assignment	Killer Instinct	Totally Wild	Be The Creature		Planet Wild	Wildlife Detectives	The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		Nat Geographic Specials		Killer Instincts/ Totally Wild	Totally Wild	Be The Creature	
Solar Sports		In This Corner		World Championship Kickboxing		Fight Sports Greatest Classics				Sagupaan		NBA Jam L906	NBA TV Daily	NBA Memphis vs L.A. Lakers					Greatest Game Bulls vs. Hawks
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! True Hollywood Story		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Area		Breathing Room	Genuine Article	Planet Parent	30 Minute Meals
HBO	Seeing Double			The Locusts				Secret Santa			Kangaroo Jack			Virtual Storm			Stuart Little 2 (10:40PM)		
Star Movies	Going All The Way			Tooth (4:15 PM)			Return To Cabin By The Lake				Baby's Day Out (7:20 PM)			Antwone Fisher				Special Forces	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Richie Rich	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Teen Titans	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Gundam Seed	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Addams Family	The Funky Phantom	Boomerang - Boomeraction	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN				NFL Football - Ravens vs. Colts						Eng. Premier League Highlights 04/05		Sportscenter Taiwan		Sportscenter Taiwan	2004-05 Atlantic Coast Conference Basketball				Sportscenter Taiwan
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Maguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Un-talkative Bunny	America's Fun-niest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Fun-niest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	The Naked Gun 21/2 The Smell Of Fear (2:45 PM)			Mind Of The Crime (4:15 PM)			To Sir With Love (5:45 PM)				Lethal Tender			The Long Run				Momentum (10:50PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Murder Without Conviction				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Mysterious Ways		The District		More Than Meets The Eye			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Mysterious Ways
Discovery Channel		Monster Garage		Mythbusters		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Civilisations	
MTV Philippines		MTV Lokal		Non-Stop Hits		Non-Stop Hits	05 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Get Spotted	MTV Loveline	Non-Stop Hits		MTV Brand New	MTV Fashionista	TRL		Cribs	Spring Break	VH1 Hits/ Video Collection	
Sports Plus				Porsche and 586	Inside the PGA	Mt. Dew Highlights Prgrm.		Superbowl10 Steelers vs Cowboys		Wendy's 3-Tour Chall. Day2				NFL Delayed Telecast					
EWTN	St. Matthew	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Benediction And Devotion	Story Keepers	Image Of God	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Light Of The East II	Voices On Virtue	EWTN Gallery	Threshold Of Hope Encore		Sunday Night Live With Fr. Groeschel		Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	G.K. Chesterton	Catholic Compass	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

TANONG NG BAYAN
PASKO SA TAGHIRAP,
DAPAT PA BANG MAGPASARAP?
WIN A 21" COLOR TV! TEXT 2910 NOW!

Ngayong Huwebes,
alas-10 ng gabi!
Dito lang sa ABC

INQ TV



PRECIOUS MEMORIES. Divina's brooding son Dranreb, FPJ's godchild: "The voice of the people is the voice of God."

Divina Valencia comes home for FPJ

By Nini Valera

DIVINA Valencia, the '60s screen siren with the Veronica Lake curl over one eye, came home from the US last Thursday to pay her last respects to Fernando Poe Jr., her friend and former screen partner.

"He was a good friend of mine," said Divina in Filipino. "He's the godfather of Dranreb [her eldest son by the late actor Bernard Belleza]. I came back just to see him one last time."

Divina, 58, said she heard the news of FPJ's death at 8 a.m. last Sunday, California time, when a friend of hers called to tell her the news.

"I told my husband, Delfin Quesada, to call up his brother who is married to FPJ's sister Evangeline," Divina recalled. "[Delfin's] brother confirmed that FPJ had died, and I just started to cry."

Divina said that was the first time her husband had seen her cry. She said he urged her to return to Manila.

"So I bought a ticket and flew here the following day," she said.

Long line of love

Divina and Dranreb went to FPJ's wake at the Sto. Domingo Church Thursday night. The former actress was still sleepless and had not yet gotten over her jet lag.

She described the long queue of people wake who, like her, wanted to pay their final respect to the man who touched millions of lives.

"You can see from the long line of people who wait four to five hours just to see Ronnie that he is loved by the masses," Divina observed. "Not only the masses, but also the other actors who are there to condole with the family. Some of these actors live abroad, but they also came back just to bid Ronnie goodbye.

"You can see from the number of people who are in his wake how much love he gave in his lifetime and left behind. He built up relationships all his life, and he has helped a lot of people without self-interest and without advertising his help. It's only now that you can hear all the good things he had done for other people."

Divina's friendship with FPJ began in 1965 when she became his leading lady in "Alabok sa Lupa," for which he won the first of Famas Best Actor awards (his second was for "Asedillo"), according to Divina. The friendship grew stronger after she married Bernard, another action star who was among FPJ's peers. When Divina gave birth to Dranreb (whose name is a reverse of his father's), now 35, FPJ stood as the boy's grandfather.

Even after Bernard was shot dead in March 1970, Divina kept his friendship with FPJ, describing it as a stabilizing factor in her tumultuous life with her husband.

Godfather's role

FPJ took his role as godfather to Dranreb seriously. He sent him to college in the US.

"After Dranreb graduated from high school, FPJ told me that his gift to him was to send him to the US," Divina said.

Dranreb said he last saw FPJ in the US on Sept. 26, 2003.

Asked what his relationship was like with FPJ, the brooding former child actor said enigmatically, "It's just between the two of us.

"There are other people who can say more," Dranreb added. "The memories I have of my *ni nong* are so precious that maybe, this is not the time to share. Everybody is giving him a tribute so I'm taking a step back. I respect the man and I respect what he has contributed to society.

"It's a bit belated and it's a bit like adding salt to our wounds because it has been said before. if I simplify this equation I would say...vox populi, vox dei (The voice of the people is the voice of God.)"

CNN'S VERONICA PEDROSA

Is Best News Anchor also one of 100 sexiest?

By Irene C. Perez

HONG KONG-BASED Filipino journalist Veronica Pedrosa anchors the news on CNN, worked for media outfits ABS-CBN and BBC, wrote for a local newspaper, taught her Australian husband how to get off a jeepney, watches over her two kids, listens to Brit rock bands and confessed she was a "party animal" at Cambridge University.

And she does her own makeup, too.

Pedrosa was recently named Best News Anchor in the 2004 Asian Television Awards in Singapore for her work on CNN's "World News Asia," a two-hour program she presents with Andrew Stevens.

In an on-line survey, Pedrosa, 38-year-old mother of two, was also nominated one of the 100 sexiest news anchors.

Of her inclusion among the sexiest, Pedrosa laughed. "A hundred's a lot," she said. "I'm 99, right?"

Most difficult

"The great challenge for all of us who work in news [is] how do we make the important interesting?," Pedrosa told INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview in Makati last Thursday. "How do we make the important compelling?

"And for us who work for commercial networks, how do we make it so we could make some money? I'm just kidding," she added with a heavy British accent.

The mother of two who has no secretary and who does her own research has covered a number of major global and regional news stories, and interviewed Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma, East Timor Foreign Minister Jose Ramos Horta, New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, Australian Prime Minister John Howard and East Timor President Xanana Gusmao.

But her most difficult interviews, she said, would be of victims, "ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances." These are people, she said, in stressful or traumatic situations who may not appreciate the intrusion of the media and are suspicious of their intentions and should be handled with sensitivity, education and training.

Learning the basics

How's a typical working day at CNN for the year's Best News Anchor?

Pedrosa gets to work at 3 p.m., checks her e-mail and reads wire stories. At 4:30 p.m., staff members and producers assess stories in an editorial meeting and prepare a lineup. After deciding on story treatments and gearing up for any break-in news, they go into the preparations for the actual show.

"HOW do we make the important compelling?"

Pedrosa thinks local media are doing pretty well. She acknowledged that she learned the basics from pitch-hitting for Ces Drilon in the '90s ABS-CBN news program "The World Tonight," then hosted by Angelo Castro and former Sen. Loren Legarda.

"I can see that they are very professional and I can see that they've really gone for the live coverage," she said. "Doing the same kind of thing that CNN does, trying to be in the place where the story is happening."

Pedrosa recently hosted "Eye on India," a World News Asia live special from New Delhi, and was amazed at how young Indian students idealized studying and working in their country, where multinational companies are rooming in.

"I find it really hard to speak to these young people who say 'You know what, I don't feel the need to go overseas anymore,'" she said. "It's very heartening that in a country where millions of the poor live, there is a growing middle class and a growing educated class as well that feels that India is where the future is."

Covering GMA

Of her writing years ago for the now-defunct Manila Chronicle, one of her vivid memories is of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as an undersecretary giving news briefings to reporters at the Bureau of Investments.

The President and Pedrosa met again recently. "She told me, 'Veronica I'm so proud of you,'" Pedrosa said, "but every time I look at her I think of the BOI!"

A traveler who has lived on three continents, Pedrosa was last home in Manila just last October for her dad's birthday. She visits her family in the Philippines once to thrice a year.

"I don't even have another passport, which is a pain," she said. "My husband [CNN cameraman Mark Phillips] complains. It takes forever to get a European visa!" Phillips dropped by during the interview.

Pedrosa recounted telling her husband, in a British accent, how to get off a passenger jeepney in Manila by saying to the driver, *"tabi lang po."* He mimicked her, but in his own Australian twang.

Journalist by choice

Pedrosa was uprooted at age 4 after her mom, writer Carmen Navarro Pedrosa, authored a tell-all biography on former First Lady Imelda Marcos that led to their exile to London.

"We were refugees," she said. "My parents were very, very active in the exiled opposition. I grew up reading about the human rights abuses in the Philippines since I was 10."

But her mom didn't push her to pursue journalism, and instead wanted her to be a doctor. She would have loved to be a social worker, though, but then bills have to be paid, she said.

Pedrosa is mother to Gabriel, 5, and Isabel, 2, who are Australian-British citizens and whom she brings with her to Manila. Her 3-11 p.m. schedule allows her to have the mornings with her kids.

Wash and go

She likes television's "The West Wing," the novels of Jane Austen, and has just finished "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime" by Mark Haddon.

CDs of Brit rock acts Travis and Coldplay are in her player, and she also listens to Black Eyed Peas and Beyoncé.

And yes, she fixes herself up for her CNN show. A consultant checks out her wardrobe and updates her look every now and then, but she takes care of "wash and go" hair, avoiding industrial-strength blow-dryers and hair gunk.

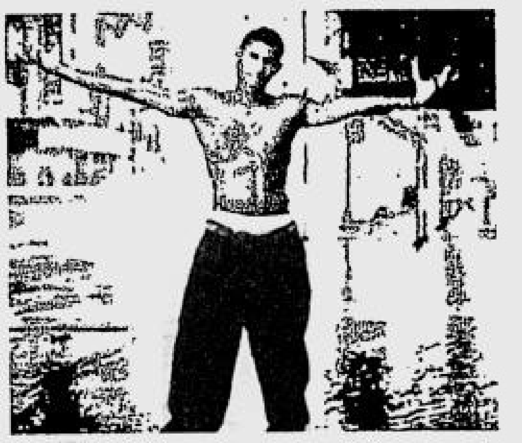
Veronica Pedrosa has come a long way, and aspiring journalists look up to her.

"I can still identify with you guys," she said. "I'm still learning. It just goes on and on. I'm just doing it longer."

Somewhere in the interview, someone from home texted her to get some chick peas from the grocery. "For *callos*," she explained.

She might be a CNN biggie but she is still Everywoman—reporting on a wide range of events, from the biggest live snake caught to the East Timor liberation, and still have time to play with her children and run errands for dinner.

"A HUNDRED'S a lot. I'm 99, right?"



USHER

2004's top 10 albums

THE TOP 10 albums of the year, according to Associated Press music writer Nekesa Mumbi Moody:

1) **"Confessions," Usher.** This was the most overplayed, overexposed album of the year—and the best. It's hard to remember when a heartbreaking cad sounded so appealing.

2) **"The College Dropout," Kanye West.** Though technically a rap album, at its heart, West's stunning debut was every bit soul music. Its songs spoke of struggles of everyday life — from the small to the gargantuan — through gripping lyrics, biting satire and David Chapelle-worthy skits.

3) **"Virgin Ubiquity: Unreleased Recordings, 1976-1981," Roy Ayers.** This sweet collection of the jazzman's lost recordings is a wonderfully orchestrated symphony of funk and soul. Songs like "Sugar" will make you wanna dust off your old disco ball (or steal it from your mom's closet).

4) **"Rebel Soul Music," Martin Luther.** Like the black rock scene itself, Martin Luther—one of its most talented stars—has been producing sizzling music that's gone pretty much unnoticed. The pressure-cooker "Growing Pains" and the sexy "Truth or Dare" are standouts.

5) **"One Blood: Una Sangre," Lila Downs.** Though she's known as Mexico's leading lady of song, Downs crafted an album that encompassed all different genres and worldly influences with her latest, from blues to even a little rap.

6) **"Launchpad," Particle.** This jam band takes you on an intergalactic head trip with their trippy album. By the time the record ends, you'll be wanting another ride.

7) **"Rbg: Revolutionary But Gangsta," Dead Prez.** Like a lot of other artists, Dead Prez put out a record about war in 2004, but it had nothing to do with Iraq. They paint a bleak portrait, but offer compelling, and certainly controversial, ways to battle back.

8) "Afrodisiac," Brandy. At this point, many of you will surely be saying: "Brandy came out with an album this year?" Her third disc, "Afrodisiac," came and went faster than her faux marriage—a shame, because this disc, with major production work by Timbaland, was surely her best.

9) "The Grey Album," Danger Mouse, Jay-Z and The Beatles. Danger Mouse must be kicking himself right about now. The DJ/producer cleverly mixes the lyrics from Jay-Z's "Black Album" and music from the legendary Beatles "White Album" to create the widely downloaded "The Grey Album," one of the most ingenious mashups to date.

10) "Finally Woken," Jem. Yes, this British import does sound awful lot like fellow UK songstress Dido, at least vocally. In a year when we heard more female voices from the alternative music scene, Jem's was the strongest. **AP**

"I LOVE watches."

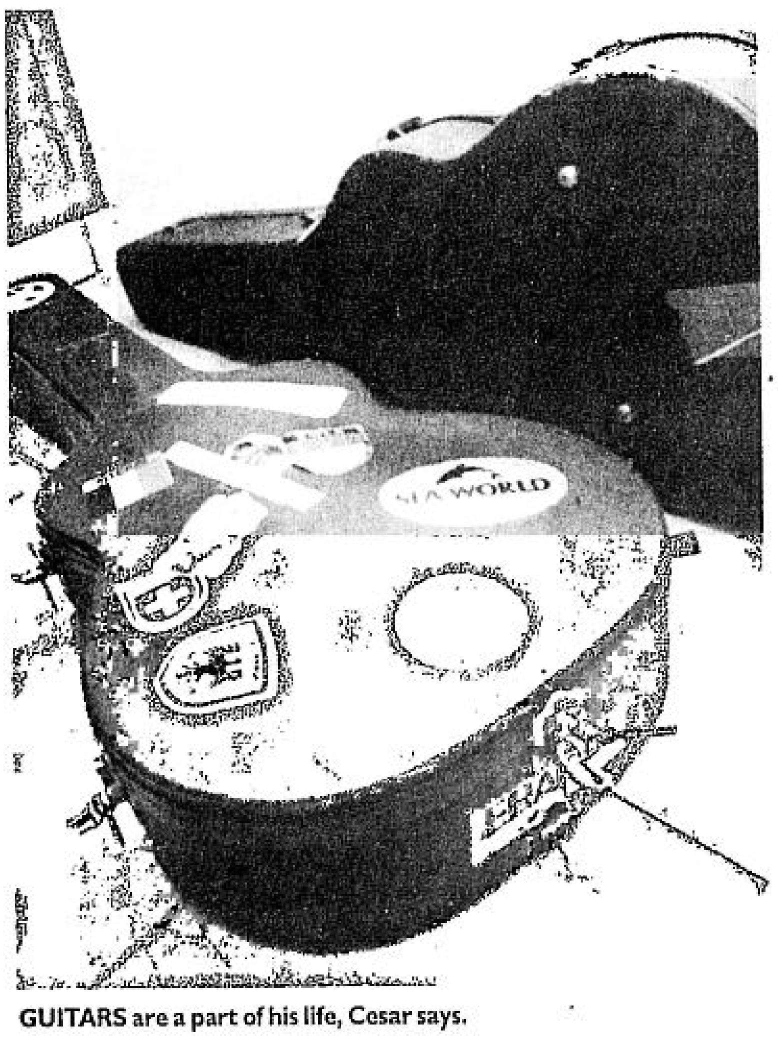
CESAR MONTAN
Muro-ami

HE BOUGHT the hat four years before he made

Cesar:

An actor should be well-dre

PLAYING the guitar with an audience of one, daughter Samantha Isabelle



GUITARS are a part of his life, Cesar says.

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Rem Zamora

IN 1993, award-winning actor Cesar Montano's "search for old things" led him to an antique shop in Tokyo, where he bought an expensive black velvet top hat for no reason at all.

"I just like buying old things," Cesar told INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview at his home in Quezon City. "[And] I liked the hat because, despite its age, it was still in good shape. It even had its own case."

He forgot all about the hat, Cesar said, until Marilou Diaz-Abaya's historical film, "Jose Rizal," was offered to him four years later. "I remembered that I actually owned a hat that was perfect for the role," he said. "It was then that I understood the hat's purpose."

"Rizal," produced by GMA Films, romped off with 14 trophies at the 1997 Metro Manila Film Festival awards, including best picture and Cesar's first acting award. A year later, Cesar joined the Metro Manila Film Fest again via "Muro-Ami (Reef Hunters)," also directed by Diaz-Abaya for GMA Films.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

This year, he will be seen in another entry, "Panaghoy sa Suba (Call of the River)," which he himself directed for his very own CM Films.

Nowadays, Cesar's hat is placed prominently on his office shelf, along with books that he loves and trophies he has won since "Jose Rizal."

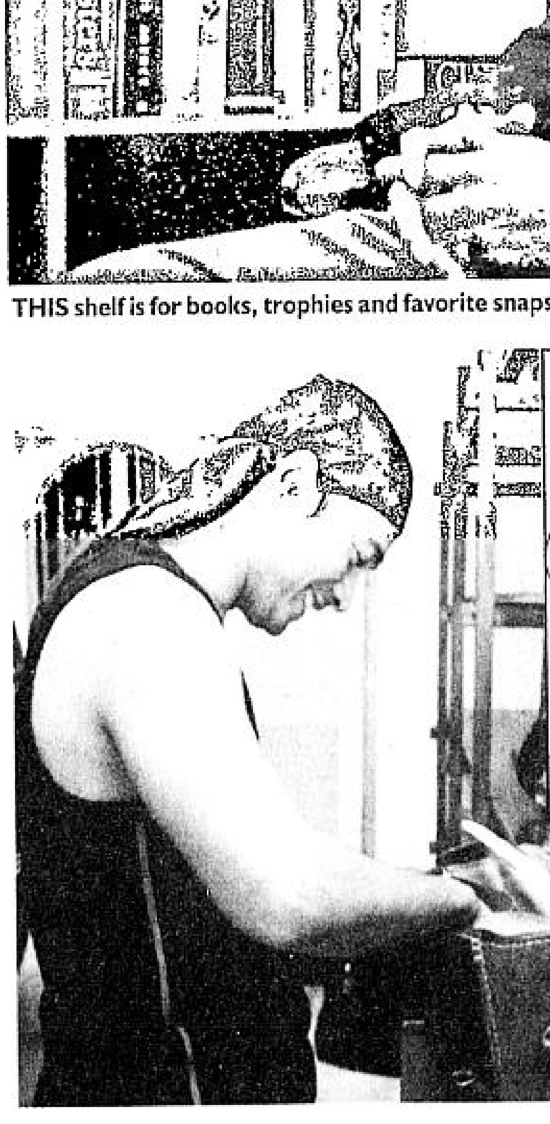
Book. "I'm currently reading 'The Five Points of Calvinism' by Edwin Palmer. I'm also interested in action and suspense novels. I also like this one book about Filipino soldiers during World War II. This is a true story. This happened before the Bataan March.

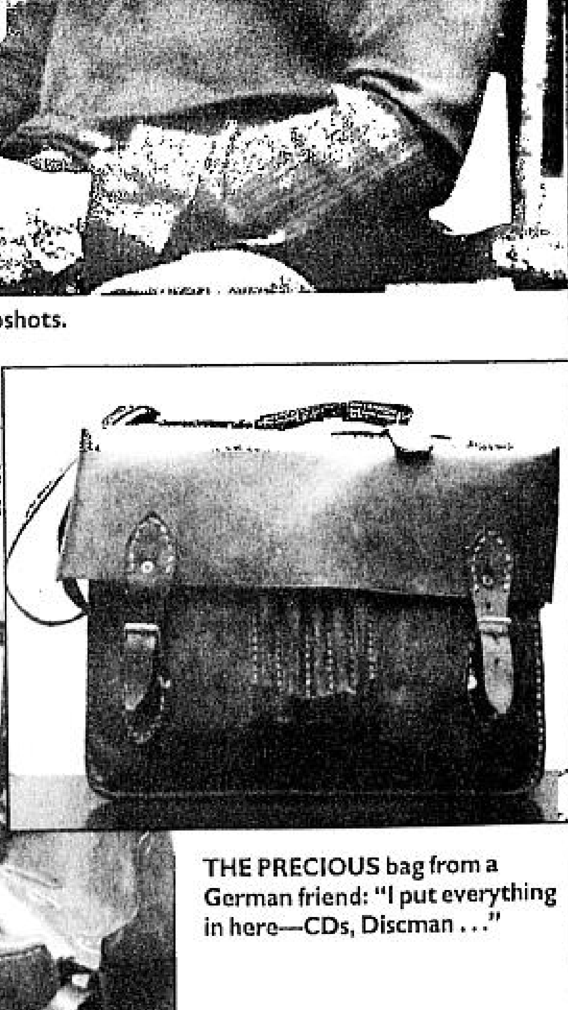
"I read because, as a director, I'm always looking for new ideas. It's a must for filmmakers."

Accessories. "The black headgear is from Fubu. I also have it in blue and white. I usually wear this when I play basketball, tennis or boxing. It keeps my hair away from my eyes. I don't want to be fixing my hair all the time. This is the same reason that most basketball players shave their heads.

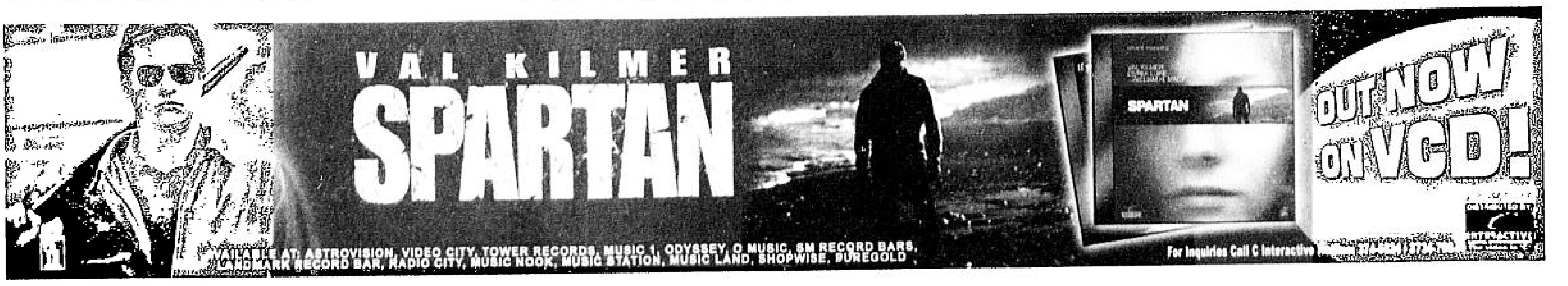
"I love watches. I collect them. This one that I'm wearing is a Daytona, my current

THIS shelf is for books, trophies and favorite snapshots.





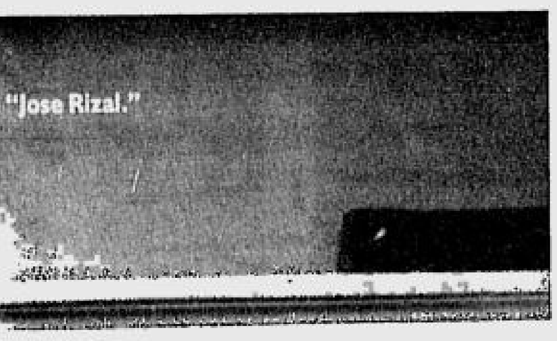
THE PRECIOUS bag from a German friend: "I put everything in here—CDs, Discman . . ."



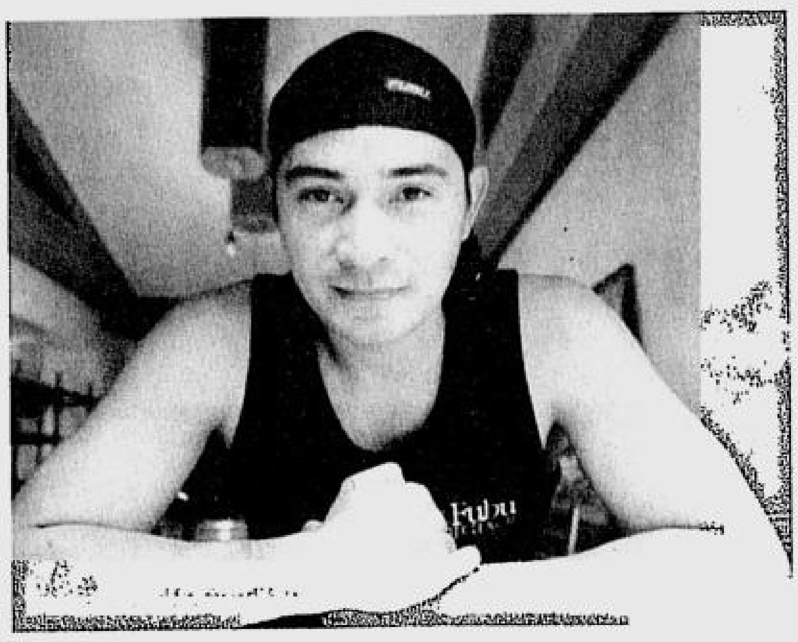
AVAILABLE AT: ASTROVISION, VIDEO CITY, TOWER RECORDS, MUSIC 1, ODYSSEY, O MUSIC, SM RECORD BARS, LANDMARK RECORD BAR, RADIO CITY, MUSIC NOOK, MUSIC STATION, MUSIC LAND, SHOPWISE, PUREGOLD

For Inquiries Call C Interactive

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



MONTANO
JOSÉ
RIZAL



FUBU headgear keeps his hair out of his eyes.

CESAR likes his slacks a little tight.

FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM

HIS CURRENT read: "Five Points of Calvinism"

"I USUALLY just wear shorts. This Abercrombie pair is my favorite.

SOLID-COLOR shirts work best for him.

ssed

favorite—flavor of the month. I wear this almost everyday. I like it because it's black, and I can wear anything with it."

Tops. "I prefer basic colors. I go for casual stuff. If I'm not doing anything, I'd rather wear round-neck shirts than collared tops. But if I need to go somewhere, I like wearing cotton polos, they suit the weather here in the Philippines. *Presko ang* (fresh) feeling.

"Fubu, G2000 and Hanford provide most of my shirts. G2000 has good corporate wear. The designs are very conservative. Fubu is very sporty. Most designs are loose and best worn after gym or when going to the mall. Hanford shirts are made of good materials. *Kumakapit sa katawan* (They hug the body). They also go well with jeans.

"I like my Armani shirt because it hangs well. I feel very comfortable when I wear it. I also feel very clean when I wear white."

"I hardly wear dri-fit shirts when I work out. I still prefer cotton because they really absorb my sweat."

Pants. "When I buy slacks, I make sure they go with most of my clothes. If you're an actor, you should really dress well.

"While I like my slacks to be a little tight, I prefer jeans that are loose. I go for the straight-cut and boot-cut types in denims. I don't like wearing high-waisted pants. But I'm not so into hipsters either, because I seldom wear belts."

"I'm wearing a pair of Edwin jeans [a German brand], its one of my favorites. I like the soft fabric. The design attracted me—it's deconstructed. When it comes to jeans, *ayaw ko nang bagung-bago* (I don't like the brand-new look). In fact, I want them torn in places. *Ayaw ko ng pang-simbang gabi ang dating* (I don't want to look like I'm off to church)."

Shoes. "I'm a size 12. My friends from where I grew up used to call me 'Buboy Paa.' I buy shoes abroad because I seldom find anything here that fits me well. Oftentimes, I just get frustrated. Italian shoes are good. I also like those that come from the US.

"I like this pair of low-cut boots that I'm wearing because it's made from soft leather. *Paang magsasaka kasi ang paa ko* (I have the feet of a farmer). I can't wear boots that are too pointed, only rounded ones fit me. Square-toes are okay, too.

"Shoes from Skechers are okay, like this blue pair that looks good with jeans. This fits me well because it's square-toed. My feet don't hurt at all.

"I like my rubber shoes to be light. For basketball, I wear low-cuts. This is so I won't sprain my ankle."

Shorts. "On normal days, you would see me wearing shorts. My favorite is this Abercrombie pair, because it's very comfortable. It's cotton."

Musical instrument. "I've had this acoustic guitar from Taylor for four years now. I bought this in the States. *Maganda ang kalansing niya* (It has a nice sound).

"I treasure my guitars because playing them brings back happy memories of my childhood. When I'm happy with my friends or when I'm feeling sad, or when it's raining and I can't get out of the house, I always have a guitar with me."

Bag. "This is made from real leather and it's 200 years old. No, just kidding. A German friend gave it to me when I did a small show there. He gave this to me November of last year, but he had been using it for the longest time. He's a musician and this is where he puts all his musical arrangements.

"In here I put everything—my wallet, CDs, Discman and my favorite book."

"Panaghoy sa Suba" also stars Juliana Palermo, Daria Ramirez, Caridad Sanchez, Joel Torre, Ronnie Lazaro, Ramon Villanueva, and young actors Raven Bulado and Rebecca Lusterio.

BUT HE likes his jeans a little loose, and his rubber shoes light. White Armani round-neck is another favorite.

'Midnight Express' director makes peace with Turkey

ISTANBUL—Movie director Oliver Stone, in Istanbul promoting his new blockbuster, "Alexander," took the chance last week to try to make peace with Turkey, where he has been vilified as the man who tarnished the country's image with his screenplay for the classic "Midnight Express."

"I never intended it to be against Turkey," Stone told AFP in an interview here. "It was against injustice . . . everywhere."

Turks have denounced Stone since the first screening of the award-winning 1978 film, based on the memoirs of Billy Hayes.

Hayes, a young American, was sentenced to 30 years in jail in Turkey after a protracted legal saga that began when he was caught at Istanbul airport trying to smuggle hashish out of the country.

Too much, too hard?

They have accused Stone of taking liberties with Hayes' book and writing a racist screenplay in which every Turkish character, without exception, is depicted as a villain.

The film is also rife with horrific prison scenes of rape and torture.

"Perhaps some of the zealousness, some of the anger came from being young and trying to make the point too much, too hard," Stone acknowledged.

But he added: "It was true that Billy Hayes did get screwed in the Turkish system. He was convicted for relatively nothing to 30 years and he was treated brutally in prison. So this is all documented.

"The larger picture," Stone said, "is that Turkey is not the only country whose prison system is not working. America has similar problems."

He recalled how he was booed when, at the Hollywood ceremony at which he picked up a Golden Globe for best screenplay for "Midnight Express" in 1979, he suggested that the United States take a hard look at its own prison system.

Coincidence

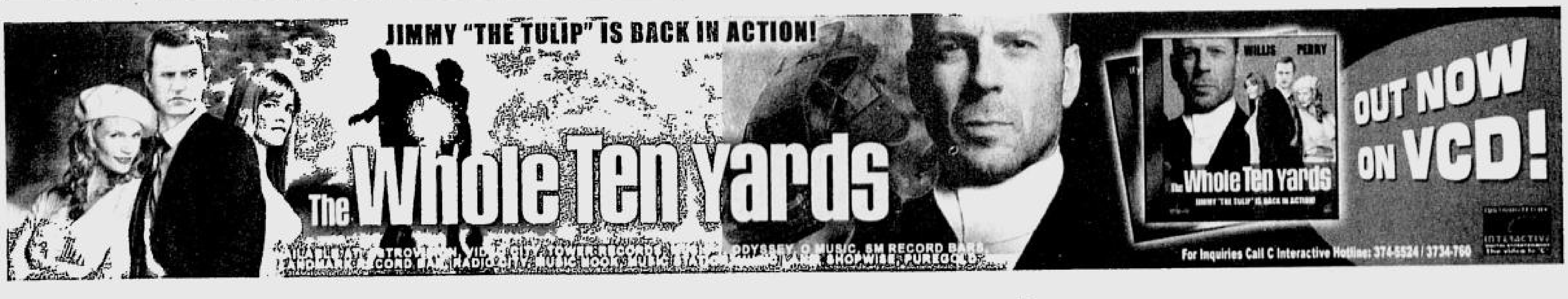
Stone was scheduled to have breakfast with Turkish Culture and Tourism Minister Erkan Mumcu at a luxury Istanbul hotel.

The exercise was supposed to have symbolic value, since the hotel—a regular fixture on "best hotel in the world" lists—used to be the notorious Sultanahmet jail, where Hayes was incarcerated before being moved to a minimum-security facility from which he eventually fled.

But Mumcu, who was held up in Ankara, could not make it.

The two were scheduled to meet later at another venue where, Mumcu earlier said, he would discuss with Stone the possibility of undertaking joint projects in this country, which has recently adopted legislation to encourage foreign production companies to film in Turkey.

AFP


JIMMY "THE TULIP" IS BACK IN ACTION!
The Whole Ten Yards
WILLIS PERRY
The Whole Ten Yards
OUT NOW ON VCD!
For Inquiries Call C Interactive Hotline: 374-5524 / 3734-760

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SeeMall!

AYALA CINEMAS

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1	BAD SANTA	GEORGE & THE DRAGON	BIRTH	GUARANTEED SEATS BRIDGET JONES 2 00, 4 20, 6 40, 9 00, 11 20	CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
2	BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	PASIYAM	ALEXANDER	GUARANTEED SEATS BAD SANTA 12 45, 2 50, 4 55, 7 00, 9 05, 11 10	PASIYAM
3	BIRTH	HAROLD & KUMAR	GUARANTEED SEATS BRIDGET JONES: 1 10, 3 30, 5 50, 8 10, 10 30	GUARANTEED SEATS HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 1 30, 3 45, 6 00, 8 15, 10 30	OUT OF REACH
4	THE POLAR EXPRESS	HONEY	2046	GUARANTEED SEATS BIRTH 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7:20, 9 25, 11.30	TAXI
5	NATIONAL TREASURE		THE POLAR EXPRESS	GUARANTEED SEATS NATIONAL TREASURE 1 30, 4 00, 6 30, 9 00, 11 30	HIGHWAYMEN
6			NATIONAL TREASURE		
7			BAD SANTA		

	GB1 GREENBELT 1
1	BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON 12 20, 2 40, 5 00, 7 20, 9 40
2	BAD SANTA 11 20, 1 25, 3 30, 5 35, 7 40, 9 45

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
BENCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT FEAT. OGIE ALCASID December 21, 2004	BLIMS/AUTOMATIC CENTER December 13 to 26, 2004	ABCCI's CHRISTMAS PARTY December 21, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES EVERY THURSDAYS TO SUNDAYS (7-10pm PIDO (Thu) ACOUSTIC JIVE (Fri), FIRST CIRCLE (Sat)	FIREWORKS DISPLAY EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAYS until December 26, 9:00pm, Greenbelt 3 Park

Onstage! REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents OH ROMEO at REP's GLOBE THEATER - January 14 to 30, 2005

Ayala MUSEUM Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue. For inquiries, please call 757-7117

AYALA CINEMAS
TIMEZONE
BUNDLED TICKET
Every purchase of a Greenbelt 3 movie ticket entitles you to
a FREE scoop of ice cream for 2 orders of a Sorabol combo meal
or
a FREE upsize for your drink with any Sorabol combo meal
-AND-
2 FREE games from Timezone for a minimum P20 load

TIMEZONE
Love mall!
It is the time for giving POWERCARDS!
You can give a Timezone Powercard for Christmas as a gift along with a Christmas Card!

Christmas Card is free for every P200 new Powercard

Timezone branches are located at:

Glorietta 4 729 3052/63
Glorietta 2 840-1250/0880
Greenbelt 3 757 3870
Greenbelt 1 752 6640
Alabang Town Center-Main 850 0574
Alabang Town Center-Cinema 850 6610
Starmall 718 3400
SM Megamall 687 0663
Greenhills 722 2150
Metropoint 833 9576
Market! Market! 886-7360
Cebu 032 232 3501
Robinsons Lipa (043)757 3012
Pavilion Mall 520 0747
NCCC Mall Davao (082) 300 4700

G-cube
AYALA CINEMAS
CHIMARA
Give them the gift of total entertainment.
for only P200
Ayala Cinemas Ticket
Timezone Passes
Taters/Chimara Cine-Snack
Available in all Taters/Chimara and Ayala Cinemas Glorietta 1 & 4, Greenbelt 1 & 3, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Cebu.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU LoveMall!

That gay grapevine!

SHOW STOPPER

ELTON John

GEORGE Michael

LONDON—Singer George Michael has issued a stinging reply to uncomplimentary remarks made by Elton John, which he said were garnered from gossip on the "gay grapevine."

In a very public spat between two of Britain's best known and successful gay artists, Michael published a letter in a celebrity magazine released on Tuesday in which he hit back at John's recent criticism of his private life. *Reuters*

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 AFTER THE SUNSET
2 (DTS) SAVED
3 (DOLBY) THE GRUDGE
4 SEED OF CHUCKY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 THE GRUDGE
2 (DOLBY) THE INCREDIBLE
3 (DTS) SEED OF CHUCKY
4 CHRISTMAS WITH A KRANK

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 FOREVER MY LOVE
2 POLAR EXPRESS
3 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) AFTER THE SUNSET
2 SALAT
3 (DTS) SEED OF CHUCKY
4 SAVED
5 THE GRUDGE

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 PA-SIYAM
2 POLAR EXPRESS
3 (DTS) NATIONAL TREASURE
4 (DOLBY) CELLULAR

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 PA-SIYAM
2 ALEXANDER
3 SKY CAPTAIN
4 SEED OF CHUCKY

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 PA-SIYAM
2 CELLULAR
3 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE
4 (DTS) THREE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) OUT OF REACH
2 MIND HUNTERS
3 (DTS ES) TAXI
4 THE GHOST

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 MINSAN PA
2 DARKNESS
3 (DOLBY) ONE MISSED CALL
4 (DTS) TAXI

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 PA-SIYAM
2 NANG NAK
3 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE
4 (DTS) POLAR EXPRESS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SKY CAPTAIN
2 SHARK TALE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320
1 BCUZ OF U
2 POLAR EXPRESS
3 (DOLBY) SURVIVING CHRISTMAS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS 635-5555 FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• REGIONAL CINEMAS •

STA ROSA (049) 837-0907
1 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
2 DARKNESS
3 BUKAS MAY UMAGA
4 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2
5 THE FORGOTTEN

LIPA (043) 757-3684 (043) 312-5870
1 ALEXANDER
2 PA-SIYAM
3 BRIDGET JONES 2
4 ONE MISSED CALL
5 SEED OF CHUCKY

DASMARINAS (046) 862-2126 (046) 416-4332
1 BUKAS MAY UMAGA
2 THE FORGOTTEN
3 CELLULAR
4 MAY
5 DARKNESS

ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 TAXI
2 THE GRUDGE
3 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
4 OUT OF REACH

IMUS (046) 875-3839 (046) 471-8188
1 NANG NAK
2 BIRTH
3 MAY
4 SHREK 2
5 NATIONAL TREASURE
6 NED KELLY

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 THE SIN
2 BUKAS MAY UMAGA
3 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
4 TAXI
5 AFTER THE SUNSET
6 DARKNESS

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459
1 CELLULAR
2 AFTER THE SUNSET
3 NATIONAL TREASURE
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS
5 BRIDGET JONES 2
6 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS

ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 WHITE CHICKS
2 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
3 NATIONAL TREASURE
4 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
5 SAW
6 DARKNESS

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call:
Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

USED in '30s film

Chaplin's cane fetches $91,800

LONDON—A bamboo cane that Charlie Chaplin used in the classic 1930s spoof "Modern Times" sold for 47,800 pounds ($91,800) at an auction Tuesday.

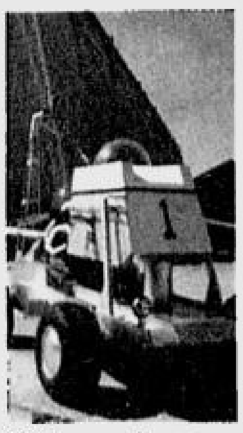
Christie's did not release the buyer's identity.

Two prop moustaches the star wore in "The Great Dictator" fetched 11,950 pounds ($23,000) and 17,925 pounds ($34,300) in a sale of movie memorabilia.

The Planet Hollywood restaurant chain bought a moon buggy used in the 1971 James Bond film "Diamonds are Forever" for 23,900 pounds ($45,900).

"We're very excited to get this important piece and we'll be driving it straight where it's going, to our new Las Vegas casino," said Planet Hollywood chair Robert Earl.

Also sold, for 13,145 pounds ($25,200), was a white Imperial Stormtrooper's helmet used in "Star Wars" and "The Empire Strikes Back." *AP*


007's moon buggy

New filmmakers' strengths and weaknesses

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR THE past few months, we have been busy judging the entries of new filmmakers to next February's Cinemalaya Philippine Alternative Film Festival, in both its feature-length and short (20-minute) narrative competitions.

From this long involvement, we have acquired a clearer knowledge of new filmmakers' strengths and weaknesses.

Their best suit is their creativity, which results in alternative approaches, fresh takes and "irreverent" filmmaking that provides viewers a welcome alternative to the generally predictable and commercially "safe" movies seen on mainstream cinema screens.

On the other hand, some new filmmakers have a hard time graduating from short, artistic, symbolic and experimental filmmaking stances and formats that make it difficult for them to connect with the huge mainstream audience.

This in turn limits the audience's chances to benefit from new filmmakers' original concepts.

So, the quicker they learn to "go full-length," the better for the Filipino viewing public.

When it comes to the short narrative format, we observe that quite a number of new filmmakers are so hung up on visual experiments that they can't tell a good, eventful and emphatic story.

They also don't adequately develop plot and character, so some of their short films are visually striking, but otherwise inert.

This is a liability, especially on the local scene, because we sense that Filipino viewers generally love eventful storytelling on the big screen.

Some new filmmakers are similarly weak when it comes to handling actors. To begin with, they don't sufficiently appreciate the importance of astute, believable casting.

Their lead players may be well-cast, but secondary characters are ineptly portrayed, resulting in weak productions that can't draw viewers into their all-important sphere of empathy.

In addition, a number of new directors are so focused on visuals that they don't know how to guide their actors to come up with imaginative and completely credible portrayals.

This is a major problem, because while it's true that film is a visual medium, viewers still need to relate to believable and emphatic protagonists. If the actor playing the protagonist is hammy, nervous, self-conscious or otherwise inept, there goes the film!

Some new directors are also weak when it comes to script analysis, thematic underscoring, film time as opposed to real time, and editing.

These limitations further compromise their efforts, and make it more difficult for them to be considered by producers for professional, mainstream work.

Despite these occasional limitations, new filmmakers should he helped to make a relatively hassle-free transition to full-length movie productions, because the industry and the viewing public need regular infusions of fresh talent to get local movies out of the desultory slump they're in.

'Destiny Fulfilled'

DESTINY'S Child has come out with "Destiny Fulfilled," its first full-length album since 2001's "Survivor."

The new album's 11 tracks pulse with contemporary rhythms and musical hooks, chronicling an emotional journey across the turbulent landscape of romance.

Songs include "Lose My Breath," "Soldier," "Cater 2 U," "T-shirt," "Is She the Reason," "Girl," "Bad Habit," "If," "Free," "Love" and "Through with Love."

Vanessa's Christmas

VANESSA **Williams** makes the holiday season especially bright with her second Christmas compilation, "Silver and Gold."

The new batch of Yuletide tunes includes "Christmas Is," "December Lullaby," "Winter Weather," "Mary's Little Boy Child" and "Silver and Gold."

She also sings "Joy to the World" with **Brian McKnight**, and Irish flutes and guitars give her rendition of "Silent Night" and "The Holly and the Ivy" a new vibe.

'Rites of Passage'

DISCOVERY Channel's "Rites of Passage" (tonight till Dec. 24, 10 p.m.) features episodes of the "Becoming a Man" series. They follow young men in remote villages as they attempt to pass tests, both mental and physical, that will decide whether they can officially be convicted men within their culture.

Episodes: tonight, "Becoming a Man: In Siberia"; tomorrow, "Mek-Path to Manhood"; Dec. 22, "Becoming a Man: In Africa"; Dec. 23, "Stick Fights and Lip Plates"; Dec. 24, "Becoming a Man: In Melanesia."

'Buddha's Giants'

ON ANIMAL Planet at 10 p.m. tonight, "Buddha's Giants" shows how Asia's endangered elephants have played a crucial and varied role in Sri Lanka's rich and turbulent history. Replay is at 10 p.m. on Dec. 26.

DID YOU KNOW...

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood star **Mel Gibson**, flush from the huge success of his religious film "The Passion of the Christ," has splashed out $15 million on a private Pacific island, a report said Thursday. *AFP*

CESAR Montano

Spirit of 'Da King' looms . . .

From page A34

the "Panaghoy" float for CM Films; Geronimo and Bautista on Viva Films' "Lastikman" float. Seguerra turned up for OctoArts Films' "Enteng Kabisote," and Contis represented Canary Film's "Spirit of the Glass."

Orderly

On Tuesday, Ramon "Chinggoy" Alonzo, who coordinated the Baguio event, said Poe would not have wanted the spirit of the festival to be dampened by his death. "As the industry's anchor, I know he will want this industry tradition to proceed with all of its pomp and glamour," said Alonzo.

Montano said the Baguio parade was more orderly than the parades in other places. "This is my fourth time to parade here and the [people's] response is really incredible here," he said.

Bautista and Geronimo sang four songs for the SM crowd, followed by Seguerra, who accompanied herself on the guitar. Montano later serenaded the people with American folk songs.

SM CINEMA movietime

It's time to watch the year's most excellent films!

Catch the most awaited annual event in local film industry!

The 30th Metro Manila Film Festival 2004

Opens Dec. 25 at all SM Cinema

NOW SHOWING

BRIDGET JONES 2
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

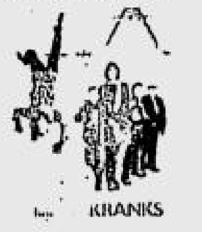
In this follow-up to the worldwide hit, we find Bridget (Renée Zellweger) where we left her: blissful and besotted in the arms of gorgeous lawyer Mark Darcy (Colin Firth). Mark is accomplished, supportive and tolerant of (nearly) all of Bridget's tiny insecurities. Bridget's pink clouds begin to turn grey as her attacks of self-doubt sorely test her relationship with Darcy. And just when it seems that the waters couldn't get any more choppy, Bridget's former boss, womanizing heartthrob Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant) sails into view

Now Showing at:
SM Davao | Cagayan | Baguio

PASIYAM
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

A mother dies, and her children come home to bury her. And like all dutiful children, observe the traditional nine-day novena for the dead or Pa-Siyam. The siblings reunite after years of estrangement. Like most families, this one has secrets. Unanswered questions. The children hope to ride over the tensions, leave the questions unanswered, bury the secrets as they buried their mother. To move on. For this family, it is not to be. Something horrible happened in this house.

Now Showing at:
SM Davao | Cebu | Cagayan | Baguio | Dasmariñas |



CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

Luther and Nora Krank have made a decision. They're going to forgo Christmas. Luther is sick of the commercialism and the costs. So they're taking a cruise. but when their daughter calls saying that she's coming home they must get christmas together in 2 hours

Now Showing at:
SM Pampanga | Davao | Cebu | Iloilo

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 AFTER THE SUNSET
2 TAXI
3 THE GHOST
4 NATIONAL TREASURE
5 ONE MISSED CALL
6 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS

sm city marilao
1 SAW
2 THE FORGOTTEN
3 THE GRUDGE
4 AFTER THE SUNSET

sm city baguio
1 TAXI
2 BRIDGET JONES 2
3 POLAR EXPRESS
4 PASIYAM

sm city bacoor
1 ONE MISSED CALL
2 BCUZ OF U
3 2046
4 ALEXANDER
5 NATIONAL TREASURE
6 BIRTH
7 HELLWOLF
8 NED KELLY

sm city batangas
1 DARKNESS
2 POLAR EXPRESS
3 THE FORGOTTEN
4 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS

sm city dasmariñas
1 PASIYAM
2 THE FORGOTTEN
3 THE GHOST
4 CELLULAR

sm city lucena
1 POLAR EXPRESS
2 THE FORGOTTEN
3 SAW
4 CELLULAR

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

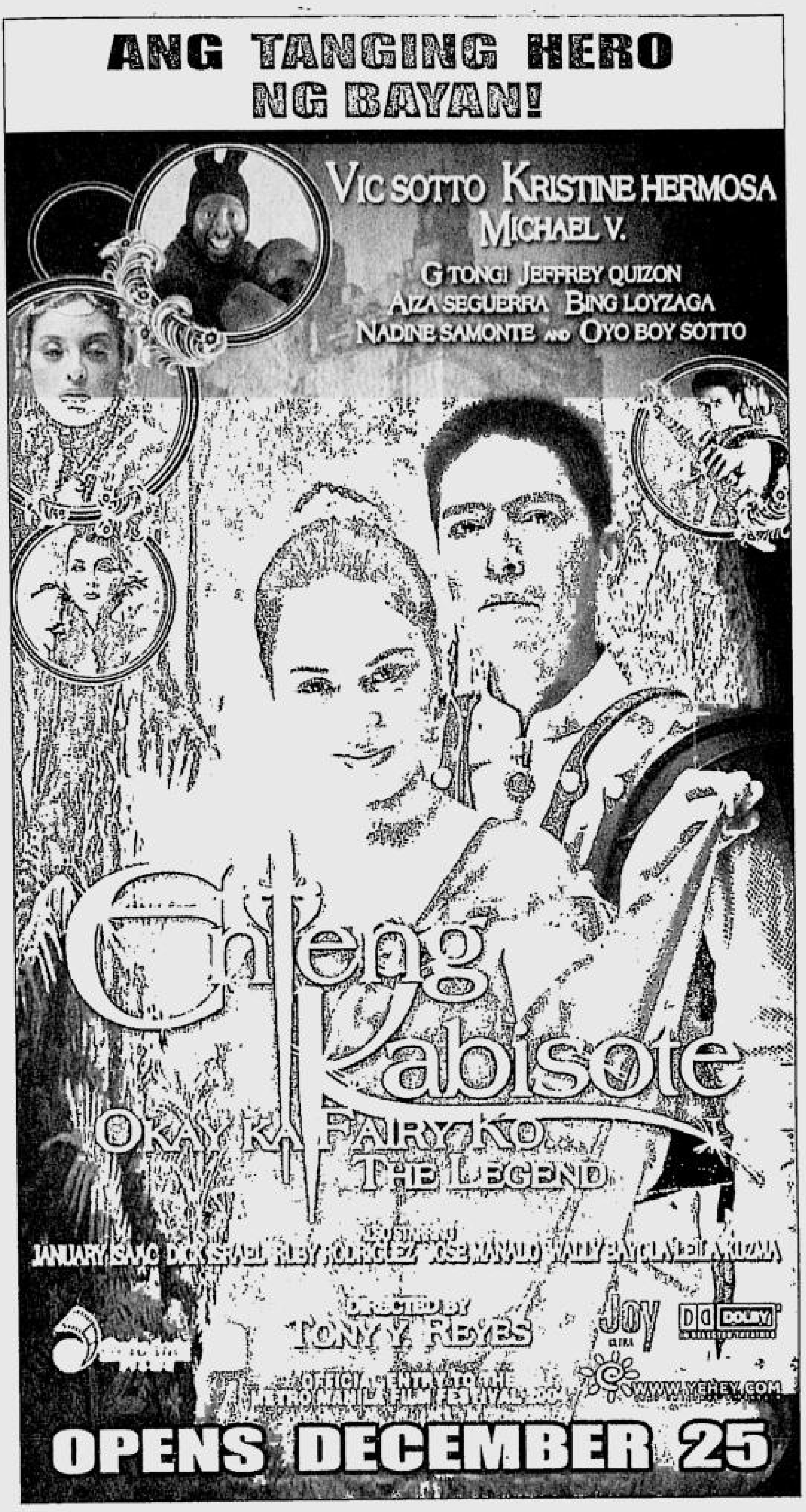
sm city cebu
1 NATIONAL TREASURE
2 ALEXANDER
3 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
4 HELLWOLF
5 THE GHOST
6 PSIYAM
7 TAXI
8 OUT OF REACH

sm city iloilo
1 DARKNESS
2 RESERVED
3 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
4 AFTER THE SUNSET
5 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
6 NATIONAL TREASURE
7 RESERVED
8 SAW

sm city davao
1 TAXI
2 BRIDGET JONES 2
3 OUT OF REACH
4 AFTER THE SUNSET
5 PASIYAM
6 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS

sm city cagayan de oro
1 NATIONAL TREASURE
2 PASIYAM
3 BRIDGET JONES 2
4 POLAR EXPRESS

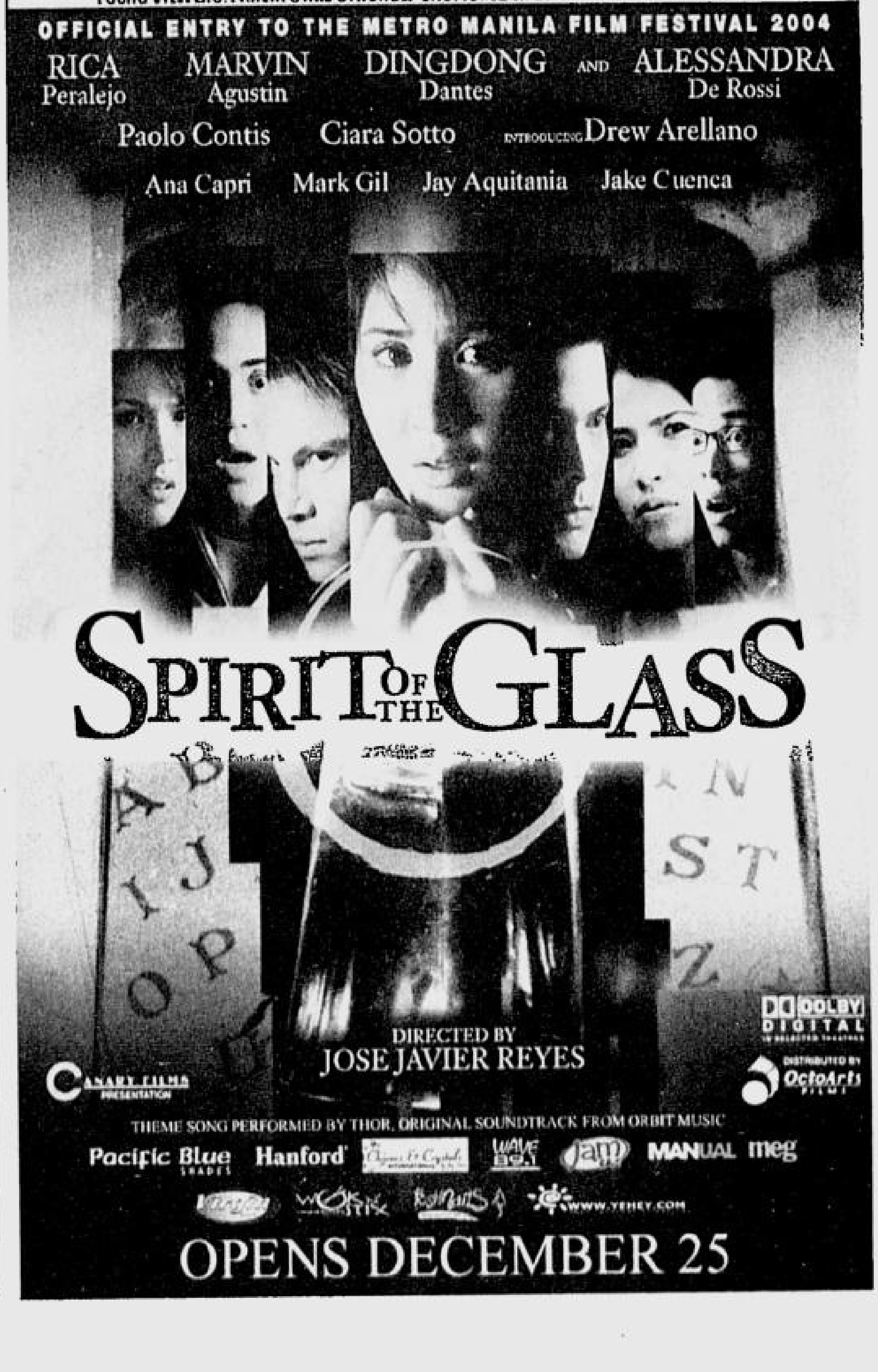
Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com



ANG TANGING HERO NG BAYAN!
VIC SOTTO KRISTINE HERMOSA
MICHAEL V.
G TONGI JEFFREY QUIZON
AIZA SEGUERRA BING LOYZAGA
NADINE SAMONTE AND OYO BOY SOTTO
Enteng Kabisote
OKAY KA FAIRY KO
THE LEGEND
JANUARY ISAAC DICK ISRAEL RUBY RODRIGUEZ JOSE MANALO WALLY BAYOLA LEILA KUZMA
DIRECTED BY TONY Y. REYES
WWW.YEHEY.COM
OPENS DECEMBER 25

THE ONLY MUST-SEE HORROR FILM IN THE FESTIVAL

PG-13 THIS MOVIE CONTAINS SCARY SCENES AND OTHER SCENES THAT MIGHT STRESS SENSIBILITIES OF YOUNG VIEWERS. PARENTS ARE STRONGLY CAUTIONED IN BRINGING ALONG VERY YOUNG CHILDREN.



OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2004

OPENS DECEMBER 25

Dininig na ang hiling kong Christmas Reunion!!

PLDT IDD
INTERNATIONAL DIRECT DIALING

Tawag Mo, Pang-Reunion Ninyo

P75 PLDT IDD call mo, maaaring reunion nyo dito o saan mang bansang tinawagan mo!

Simpleng PLDT IDD tawag mo, baka reunion na ninyo!

- Every P75 worth of PLDT IDD call mo, magbibigay sa 'yo ng 1 raffle entry. Mas marami at mas matagal na tawagan, mas maraming entries!
- Pwede kang manalo ng REUNION package: 2 roundtrip tickets (worth P200,000) to the called destination or bring in called party back to the Philippines.
- Or pwedeng makalibre ka sa PLDT bill mo! Just fully pay your PLDT bill on time at pwede kang maging one of the 18 BILL WIPE-OUT winners. Susunod na bill mo, sagot namin! (max. P8,000)

Kaya tawag lang ng tawag abroad with PLDT IDD, para sa pinaka-malinaw at murang kumustahan, at para reunion na pangarap mo, mapasa-inyo!!

40¢ A MINUTE

PLDT Home Rewards
Earn points the fast and easy way!

for more information Rate is VAT-inclusive in US$. Promo period: December 15, 2004-February 15, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5970, Series of 2004. See flyers for details.

CALL 171

IBA PA RIN ANG MAY LANDLINE!
PLDT

Accent-Micro Technologies, Inc.
Dell OptiPlex
GX270
Relevant Technology
That's Easy to Manage
Service: 687 4205 07 • Sales: 636 3563/ 687.1955-60 • info@amti.com.ph
Dell Top Country Partner since 1997
Dell Top Enterprise Sales Award 2003
DELL

MONDAY,
DECEMBER 20, 2004
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
B1
BUSINESS
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

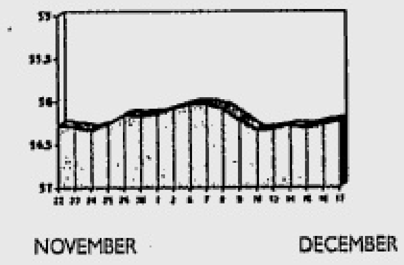
Kingston DataTraveler II/II Plus
- Available in 128MB, 256MB, 512MB, 1GB, 2GB
- Designed to Hi-Speed USB 2.0 specifications
- Fast data transfer rates of up to 10MB/sec read and up to 13MB/sec write
- Includes SecureTraveler security software
CALL NOW and get BIG DISCOUNT
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

Gov't drops plan to increase oil tax

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 56.22= $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 18, 2004

¥ 104.49 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 18, 2004

GOLD: $ 438.60-439.10
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 18, 2004

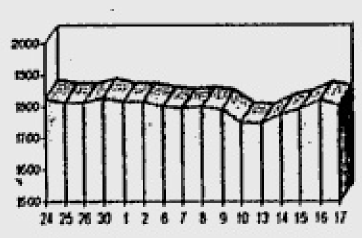
December 17, 2004

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.755001888	1.000000	56.2590
Japan	Yen	0.007208	0.009547	0.5371
United Kingdom	Pound	1.457984	1.931100	108.6418
Hongkong	Dollar	0.097094	0.128601	7.2350
Switzerland	Franc	0.651968	0.863558	48.5829
Canada	Dollar	0.610991	0.809258	45.5280
Singapore	Dollar	0.458132	0.606796	34.1377
Australia	Dollar	0.569942	0.754888	42.4692
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.00287	2.652801	149.2439
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.201339	0.266674	15.0028
Brunei	Dollar	0.456747	0.604961	34.0345
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000108	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019275	0.025530	1.4363
UAE	Dirham	0.205571	0.272279	15.3181
Euro	Euro	1	1.324500	74.5150
Argentina	Peso	0.252509	0.334448	18.8157
Brazil	REAL	0.276304	0.365965	20.5888
Denmark	Kroner	0.134545	0.178205	10.0256
India	Rupee	0.017257	0.022857	1.2859
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.198711	0.263193	14.8070
Mexico	New Peso	0.067081	0.088849	4.9986
New Zealand	Dollar	0.535007	0.708617	39.8661
Norway	Kroner	0.121942	0.161512	9.0865
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012668	0.016779	0.9440
South Africa	Rand	0.130627	0.173016	9.7337
Korea	Won	0.000716	0.000948	0.0533
Sweden	Kroner	0.111231	0.147325	8.2884
Syria	Pound	0.014544	0.019264	1.0838
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023361	0.030941	1.7407
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000394	0.000522	0.0294

STOCK MARKET

Yearend window-dressing seen lifting stocks

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

STOCK investors are expected to continue shopping for stocks in the seasonal yearend window-dressing this week.

"The market is seen to sustain its uptick in the coming sessions. Trading will be boosted by yearend window-dressing and optimism brought by new tax measures. The market will be testing its initial resistance at 1,830 while support is at 1,740," Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities said.

Last week, the main index rose 67.35 points or 3.84 percent as investors cheered the passage of the "sin" taxes bill, a crucial revenue measure to plug the gaping budget gap.

BPI Trade said in its weekly report that telecom stocks such as Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Globe Telecom lifted the market last week.

San Miguel Corp. was also another gainer as it gears up to raise more capital through a stock rights offering next year. The offering is targeted to raise roughly $300 million.

Other gainers last week were Bank of the Philippine Islands, First Philippine Holdings, Metrobank, Petron Corp., SM Prime, Megaworld Corp., JG Summit, Empire East Land and Digitel.

"The passage of a crucial revenue bill involving sin taxes helped boost market sentiment. The bill is now up for signing by President Arroyo before it becomes a law. The Philippine government is hoping to avert a credit rating downgrade. Interest rates were also unchanged despite the US Federal Reserve rate increase and the sustained rise in domestic inflation," BPI Trade said.

The market last week cheered the government's move to ratify a bicameral committee version of the higher excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol , paving the way for its signing into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo. The President is expected to sign it into law before Christmas day.

The measure is the first of eight proposed tax measures approved by Congress that seek to raise about P80 billion in additional revenues a year.

Additional revenue from the "sin" tax bill is expected to reach P15 billion a year.

A credit-rating downgrade would normally raise borrowing costs for companies when they try to secure capital through debt for their expansion activities.

Higher taxes on liquor and cigarettes, on the other hand, are expected to impact on listed firms such as food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) and Tanduay Holdings Inc. (THI). *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

CAP assures SEC on new investor

COLLEGE Assurance Plan Philippines, Inc. (CAP) has met with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to assure the regulator that it was in talks with an investor from the United States that may provide as much as P400 million in loan to the pre-need firm.

SEC Chair Fe Barin said CAP officials led by CAP director Robert Sobrepeña were accompanied by a Filipino representative of the US-based firm in their meeting. The terms of the investment have yet to be worked out.

Barin also said that CAP has drawn from its cash deposit with the Philippine Veterans Bank to pay P20 million in tuition liabilities to plan holders. CAP has already submitted to the SEC a list of schools and plan holders to whom the money was released.

CAP is now preparing to drawdown another P20 million.

The SEC earlier allowed CAP to pay its plan holders using its trust fund. CAP could withdraw P110 million from its cash deposit with Veterans Bank in tranches and the pre-need firm has worked out a scheme to draw the amount in five tranches.

Barin said CAP would no longer be required to get formal approval of the SEC for the disbursement of each tranche but it would have to notify the SEC where the cash would go.

To keep intact its trust fund at the Veterans Bank, CAP would substitute the amount to be drawn with bonds of the Metro Rail Transit.

CAP has about P160 million in liabilities to various schools this semester. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has dropped the fiscal reform proposal to impose an additional P2 excise tax on petroleum products following criticisms by oil players that making them shoulder several new taxes will result in a heavier burden for consumers who are already affected by rising world oil prices.

Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan said the government has decided to impose the value-added tax on petroleum products and raise the current 10-percent VAT rate to 12 percent.

She said the government could have generated substantial revenue from the P2 increase in excise tax on petroleum, but added that the twin VAT proposals would be sufficient. The decision was announced after oil companies protested the additional excise tax, which earlier went together with the VAT proposals.

Earlier, a bill on the P2 increase in excise tax on petroleum products was filed in the Lower House by Rep. Danilo Suarez. House Bill No. 1323, if it were pursued, was expected to contribute P29.7 billion to government coffers.

But Tan said the executive branch actually backed out from the plan to impose a P2 increase in excise tax on petroleum products the moment it decided to adopt the proposal to lift their VAT exemption. She said, however, that some oil firms actually thought that what the executive branch was pushing for were both the P2 additional excise tax and the lifting of the VAT exemption.

"We can live with that because what's more important is to fulfill the objective of improving the VAT system," Tan said. She explained earlier that the government's lifting of the VAT exemptions of several products and services, including petroleum, would improve the government's efficiency in VAT collection.

Official estimates showed that the government was losing a hundred billion pesos a year from VAT leakages, and more than P200 billion worth of potential tax collection due to VAT exemptions.

With the government's plan to lift the VAT exemption of petroleum products, together with other products and services, it targets to improve collection efficiency by better tracking of the input-output VAT credit mechanism.

Tan said the DOF expected P25 billion in additional revenue a year from the reduction of the list of VAT exemptions, and another P30 billion from the 2-percentage point increase in the VAT rate.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said the proposed bills on the increase in VAT rate to 12 percent and on the lifting of VAT exemptions of several products and services would be consolidated into one bill. The proposal will amend the section of the National Internal Revenue Code that deals with the VAT.

After dropping the proposal to increase the excise tax on petroleum products, the Arroyo administration is left with the following revenue-raising measures intended to solve the country's fiscal problem: rationalization of fiscal incentives, a tax amnesty, implementation of a performance-based lateral attrition system for revenue-collection agencies, adoption of a simplified net income tax system, and an increase in taxes on cigarettes and alcohol.

Earlier, the executive has also dropped the plan to impose a franchise tax on telecommunication companies.

The fiscal reform measures are expected to generate more than P100 billion in additional revenue a year and are aimed at wiping out the national government's budget deficit by 2010. The budget deficit, which is the gap between higher expenditure and lower revenue collection for a period, stood at P199.9 billion last year.

6 oil, gas drilling contracts seen

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy expects to award six more oil and gas exploration service contracts in the next several weeks, following the Supreme Court's reversal of a landmark decision on local mining laws.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said the government would likely award before year's end two more service contracts. Another four would be awarded by mid-January.

The DOE recently awarded to South Sea Petroleum Holdings Ltd. Service Contract 45, which would allow the company to do oil and gas exploration over the Agusan-Davao basin in Davao.

The service contract involves the exploration and development of 748,000 hectares of land.

Initially, South Sea Petroleum will do geological and geophysical studies on the land. This will include the drilling of three exploratory wells.

The Hong Kong-listed firm will be investing $2.75 mil-

6 OIL/B6

Investment commitments surged 253% to ₱165.3B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INVESTMENT commitments in the first 10 months rose by 253 percent to P165.3 billion from P46.8 billion in the same period last year as a diverse mix of projects were registered in October.

Documents from the Department of Trade and Industry showed that the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority approved 366 projects from January to October.

When fully operational, the projects are expected to provide 71,348 new jobs.

Investments approved by the BOI in the first 10 months accounted for P129.8 billion in new capital, an increase of about 430 percent from P24.5 billion a year ago.

At the same time, Peza-approved projects reached P35.6 billion or about 60 percent higher than the P22.3 billion registered in the same period last year.

Infrastructure ventures still comprised the bulk of the investment base as six projects for power facilities represented P114.9 billion or 70 percent of the total.

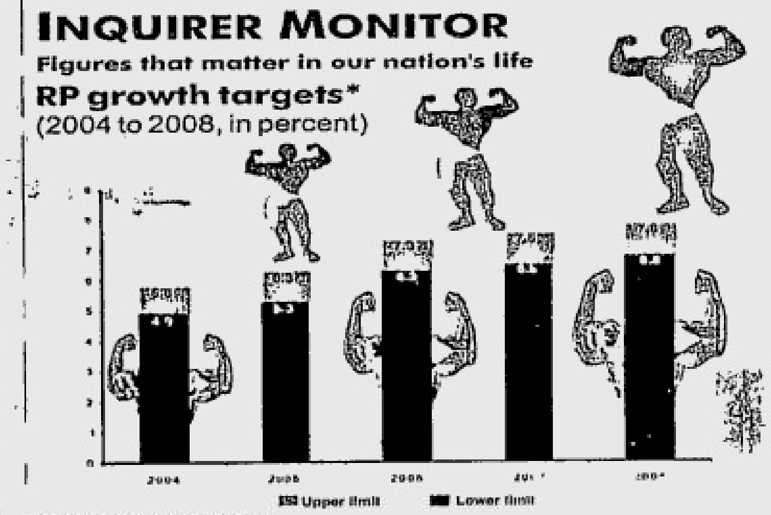
But Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the government

INVESTMENT/ B6

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

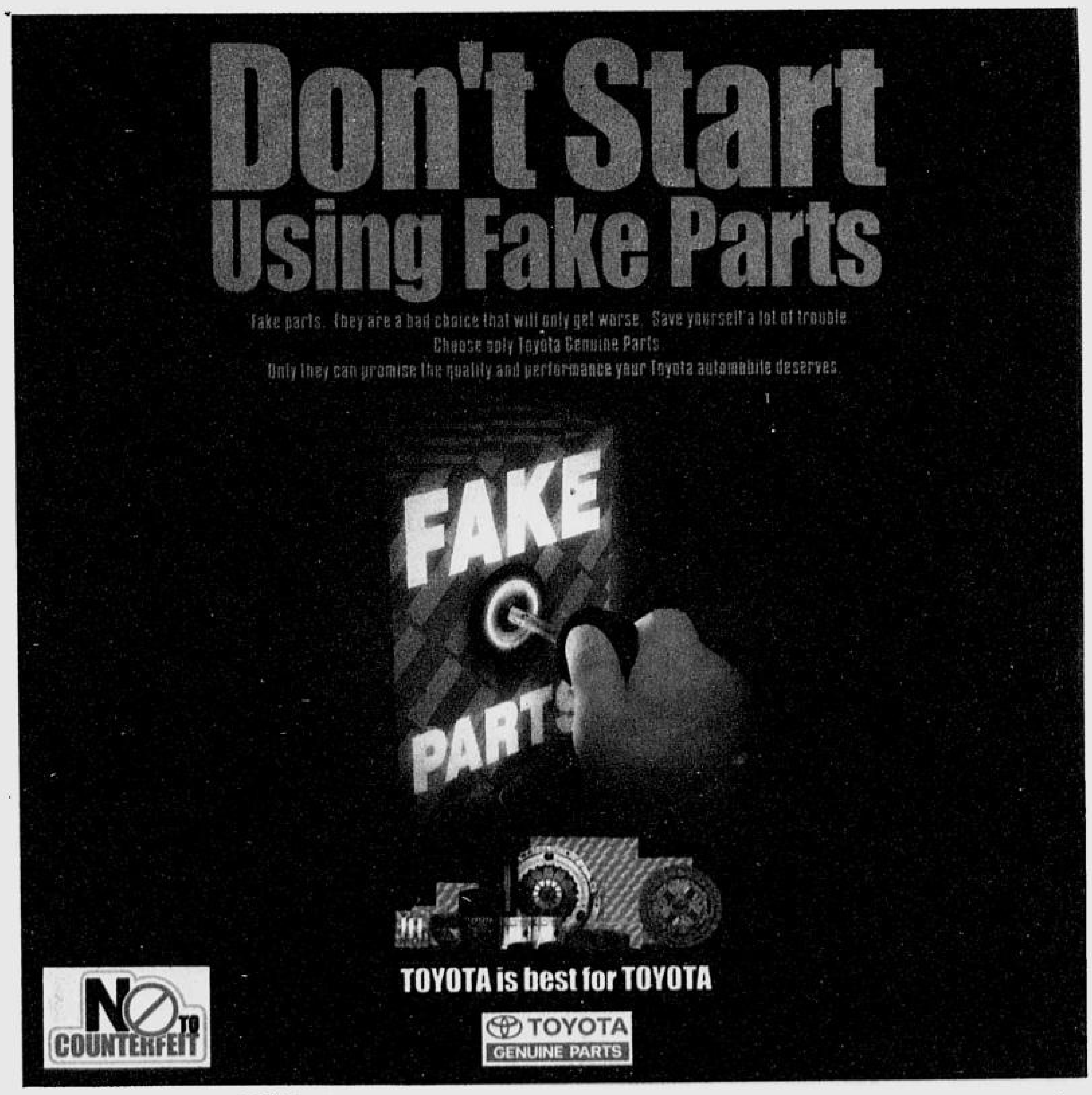
RP growth targets*
(2004 to 2008, in percent)



*Growth in gross domestic product
Source: Medium-Term Development Plan: 2004-2010

KEY to achieving accelerated economic growth is finding solutions to the country's fiscal problem, which the government admits can erode investor confidence, create balance of payments difficulties and further put pressure on crucial infrastructure spending, if left unchecked. The country's declining competitiveness will also be addressed by increasing labor productivity, reducing transport and power costs and simplifying business procedures.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research


Don't Start Using Fake Parts
Fake parts. They are a bad choice that will only get worse. Save yourself a lot of trouble.
Choose only Toyota Genuine Parts.
Only they can promise the quality and performance your Toyota automobile deserves.
TOYOTA is best for TOYOTA
TOYOTA GENUINE PARTS
NO TO COUNTERFEIT

The Infanta that was to be

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

HOW SHORT our attention span can be, especially with issues that can have far reaching effects on our lives and on our collective future.

The untold loss of human lives, properties and futures resulting from the disaster in Infanta, and neighboring towns Real and General Nakar, is now all but lost in the minds of the Filipino public. The news surrounding the disaster and the lessons we all must learn from it have ceased to become "flavor of the month" in the media. In fact, the attention lasted barely half a month.

It has been crowded out of the headlines and front pages by the untimely death of Fernando Poe Jr., which is taking up to 80 percent of news and public affairs programs in the media these days.

I am not saying that FPJ's death bears no important significance in Filipinos' lives; it does. The concerns outspokenly raised by his bereaved spouse reflect a lot of what is wrong with our government, our politics, our media, and our society in general.

And FPJ's death provides good occasion to examine what must be done to address these.

Unfinished business

But there is much unfinished business in Infanta that demands continuing prominent attention, and which must not be lost in all of us.

Scores, maybe hundreds, of dead remain to be found and properly buried.

There is a great deal of cleanup and repair that must be done. Food and vital supplies are running short in temporary relocation centers for hundreds of families who lost their homes and livelihoods.

Longer term measures are needed to put these families back on track. Schools must be restored at the soonest possible time, as the Infanta children could very well be the biggest casualties of this calamity in terms of long term damage to their futures.

Beyond these, the environmental plunder that had been highly instrumental in the calamity needs to be put in the consciousness of every Filipino, young or old alike.

Otherwise, the list of unheeded environmental lessons will just keep growing and go far beyond Ormoc and Infanta.

We like to refer to these events as "wake-up calls," but the way we are dealing with them, we have simply been repeatedly hitting the snooze button and going right back to sleep each time.

Are we waiting for someone to bodily pull us out of the bed before we do what needs to be done?

Bustling local economy

A few months ago, I agreed to write a chapter for a coffee table book on the town of Infanta.

It was to be a book that would showcase the charm as well as the great promise of this quiet but fast moving municipality.

Together with neighboring towns Real and General Nakar, Infanta was poised to become a new focal point for economic activity on the eastern seaboard of Luzon.

The Infanta economy had a lot going for it. Straddling a portion of the Sierra Madre Mountains, Infanta is ecologically diverse and natural resource-rich.

Lamon Bay and the Polillo Strait provide excellent fishing grounds. This coupled with over a thousand hectares of fishponds has allowed Infanta to produce more than twice (208 percent) its own fish requirements.

Infanta was also producing more rice than it needs (132 percent), exporting its surplus to neighboring towns and as far as Central Luzon.

Industry was emerging, with increasing manufacturing establishments like bakeries, hollow block makers, furniture shops and rice mills.

The making of liquor from nipa sap was also an extensive cottage industry, with over 100 small-scale distilleries in operation.

Its trade and services sector was strong, making it the regional service center of northern Quezon.

With its location, it is the logical transshipment point for the Polillo island municipalities, with most of the products and travelers going to Polillo islands passing through Infanta and Real. There were over 300 business establishments in 1998, composed of banks, trading and commercial establishments, and service establishments such as tailoring shops, beauty parlors, and lately, tourism facilities.

Casual observation would have led any visitor to conclude that business was brisk. I certainly got that impression during my last visit there.

New growth area

Five Presidents have had grand plans for Infanta, with the area figuring prominently in the succession of regional development plans for the eastern environs of Metro Manila.

The Master Plan has come under various names, with each new President characteristically intent on putting a distinctive trademark to the initiative.

It was pushed as Lungsod Silangan under Marcos, and was part of the Calabarzon growth area pursued under Aquino, the Marilaque growth corridor under Ramos, the Rizlaque cluster of Estrada, and Arroyo's 10-Point Agenda.

The area's potential had not escaped the attention of investors, particularly large real property developers from Metro Manila.

At least a couple of them are known to have been buying up strategic properties in the area in recent years.

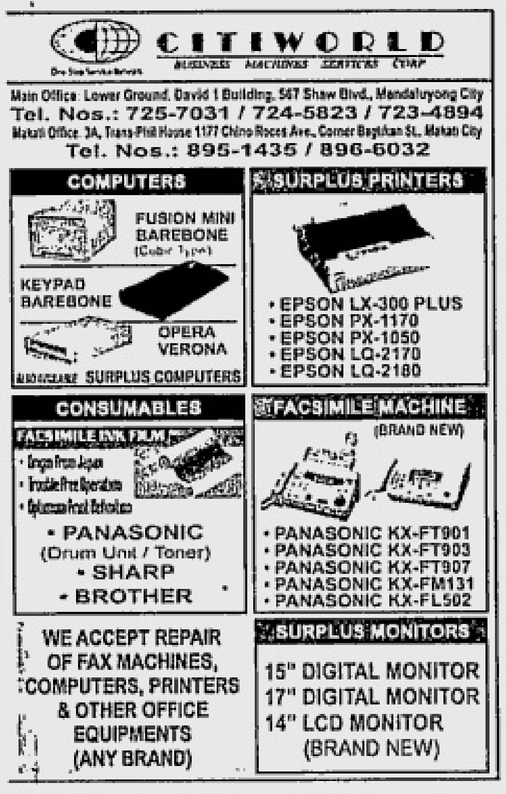
Metro Manila dwellers, including some celebrities and other prominent personalities, had been snapping up properties especially near or along the coast. Local residents would point to this property acquired by a TV personality, or that lot bought by a rich Makati businessman—word gets around rather easily.

Indeed, anyone with the cash to spare would have been foolish to not to invest in some Infanta real estate—until the disaster came.

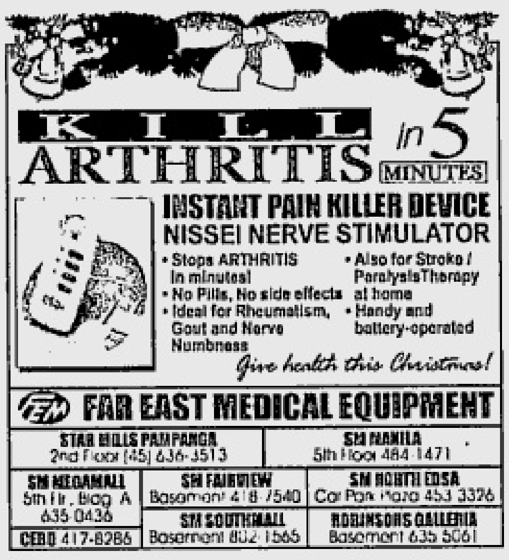
Now just off the press, the book has taken on new significance as a valuable photographic and documentary record of the Infanta that was and was to be.

As such, the book is bound to become prized collector's item, and its publishers are using the opportunity to raise badly needed funds for the people of Infanta.

E-mail me at chabito@ateneo.edu or the sponsors at mgalmogino@bpi.com.ph, or call 816-9439, if you'd like to obtain your copy, and help the people of Infanta as you do.



CITIWORLD
BUSINESS MACHINES SERVICES CORP
Main Office: Lower Ground, David 1 Building, 567 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos.: 725-7031 / 724-5823 / 723-4894
Makati Office: 3A, Trans-Phil House 1177 Chino Roces Ave., Corner Bagtikan St., Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 895-1435 / 896-6032
COMPUTERS
FUSION MINI BAREBONE (Cube Type)
KEYPAD BAREBONE
OPERA VERONA
SURPLUS COMPUTERS
SURPLUS PRINTERS
• EPSON LX-300 PLUS
• EPSON PX-1170
• EPSON PX-1050
• EPSON LQ-2170
• EPSON LQ-2180
CONSUMABLES
FACSIMILE INK FILM
• PANASONIC (Drum Unit / Toner)
• SHARP
• BROTHER
FACSIMILE MACHINE (BRAND NEW)
• PANASONIC KX-FT901
• PANASONIC KX-FT903
• PANASONIC KX-FT907
• PANASONIC KX-FM131
• PANASONIC KX-FL502
WE ACCEPT REPAIR OF FAX MACHINES, COMPUTERS, PRINTERS & OTHER OFFICE EQUIPMENTS (ANY BRAND)
SURPLUS MONITORS
15" DIGITAL MONITOR
17" DIGITAL MONITOR
14" LCD MONITOR
(BRAND NEW)

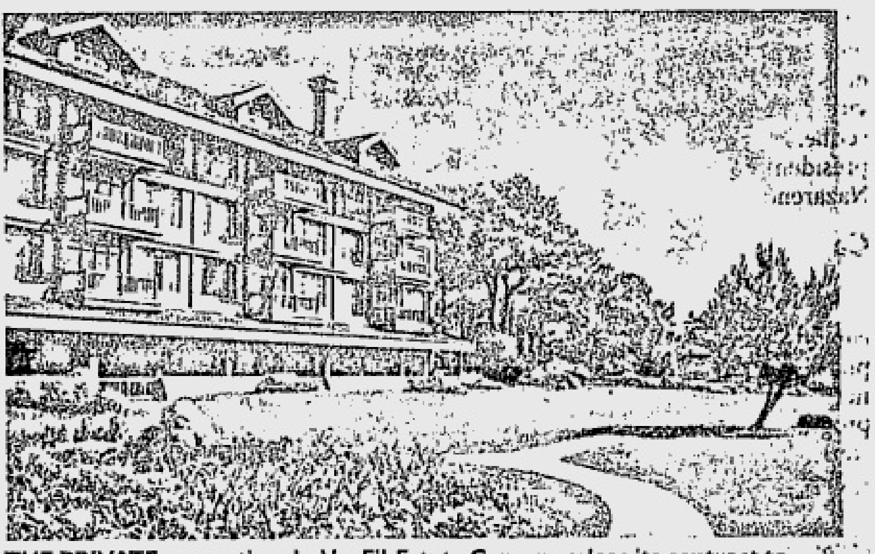


KILL ARTHRITIS in 5 MINUTES
INSTANT PAIN KILLER DEVICE
NISSEI NERVE STIMULATOR
• Stops ARTHRITIS in minutes!
• No Pills, No side effects
• Ideal for Rheumatism, Gout and Nerve Numbness
• Also for Stroke / Paralysis Therapy at home
• Handy and battery-operated
Give health this Christmas!
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
STAR HILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Floor (45) 636-3513
SM MANILA 5th Floor 484 1471
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635 0436
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418 7540
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453 3376
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 802 1565
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635 5061
CEBU 417-8286

Christmas Specials!
FACIT MANUAL TYPEWRITER
Brand New & Modified
16" Pica & Elite
P10,950
SANYO TIME LAPSE MACHINE FOR YOUR CCTV SYSTEM
GTL-924
24 HRS TIME RECORDING
P9,950
OFFICE CALCULATOR
P5102
Slightly Damaged
P1,250
daVinci By ROYAL ORGANIZER
DV4
4MB Memory
P3,400
AUTHORIZED DEALERS:
www.elitemachinesinc.com
Elite Machines, Inc
Elite Building, 20 Araneta Ave. Ext., Quezon City
Connecting all departments
4110889 • 4110169
7328045 • 7328050 • 7328055
7328061 • 7328063 • 7328064
Rm. 301 Pacific Bldg., 460 Quintin Paredes corner Gandara Sts., Binondo, Manila
2476012 • 2474030 /31 /32 /33
Espiritu Building, 33 Gen. Maxilom Ave., Cebu City
(032) 2336711 to16
EURO-ASIA OFFICE MACHINES INC
G/F, LRDC Building, 22 Sen. Gil. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8877238 / 56 / 68 / 80 / 95 / 98 & 8880698
GOLDSTAR
Tan Building, Tomas Saco cor. 1st Street, Nazareth, Cagayan De Oro City
Tel (088) 8576308 8575795
Fax (088) 8575795
Door 2, Lua Bldg., Quirino Ave. cor. J.P. Laurel St., Davao City
Tel. (082) 2270321-23
Fax (082) 2270321

John Hay developer again defaults on lease payment

By Ronnel W. Domingo



THE PRIVATE consortium led by Fil-Estate Corp. may lose its contract to develop Camp John Hay due to its financial difficulties.

CJH Development Corp., the developer of the John Hay property in Baguio City, has asked for a third restructuring of its arrears after it defaulted again on its lease payments, according to officials of the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

BCDA president and chief executive Narciso Abaya said in a press briefing that CJHDevCo's arrears has reached about P2.3 billion, of which P1.8 billion represent the principal lease, while around P400 million is in interest and surcharges.

Abaya said BCDA was not discounting the option to rescind the agreement with the Fil-Estate Corp. led consortium, which would mean a recovery of the former American military facility in Baguio City.

He added that the agency has yet to agree on CJHDevCo's latest request for a revised payment scheme, since BCDA has laid out its own plan to address the issue.

Abaya, however, declined to give further details.

BCDA vice president Aileen R. Zosa, who is in charge of planning and business development, said the real estate developer first underwent a restructuring program in 2000, which covered new terms of payment for leases for the same year as well as for 1999.

A second restructuring was implemented last year, when CJHDevCo defaulted on a P50-million payment due in December 2003.

Zosa said payments under restructuring are slapped an interest of 12 percent and an additional 3-percent surcharge.

Under the original lease agreement, CJHDevCo committed to pay P425 million per year in the first five years of the 25-year contract that came into effect in 1996.

Beginning the sixth year, or 2002, payments would go down to P150 million or 5 percent of gross earnings, whichever is higher.

Abaya said CJHDevCo's current failure to make the lease payments stemmed from a Supreme Court decision issued last October, which voided the tax-exempt status of the John Hay property.

In another development, BCDA reported that it generated P1.4 billion in revenues this year from the sale and lease of military base lands under its asset disposition program.

Firm to expand palm oil venture

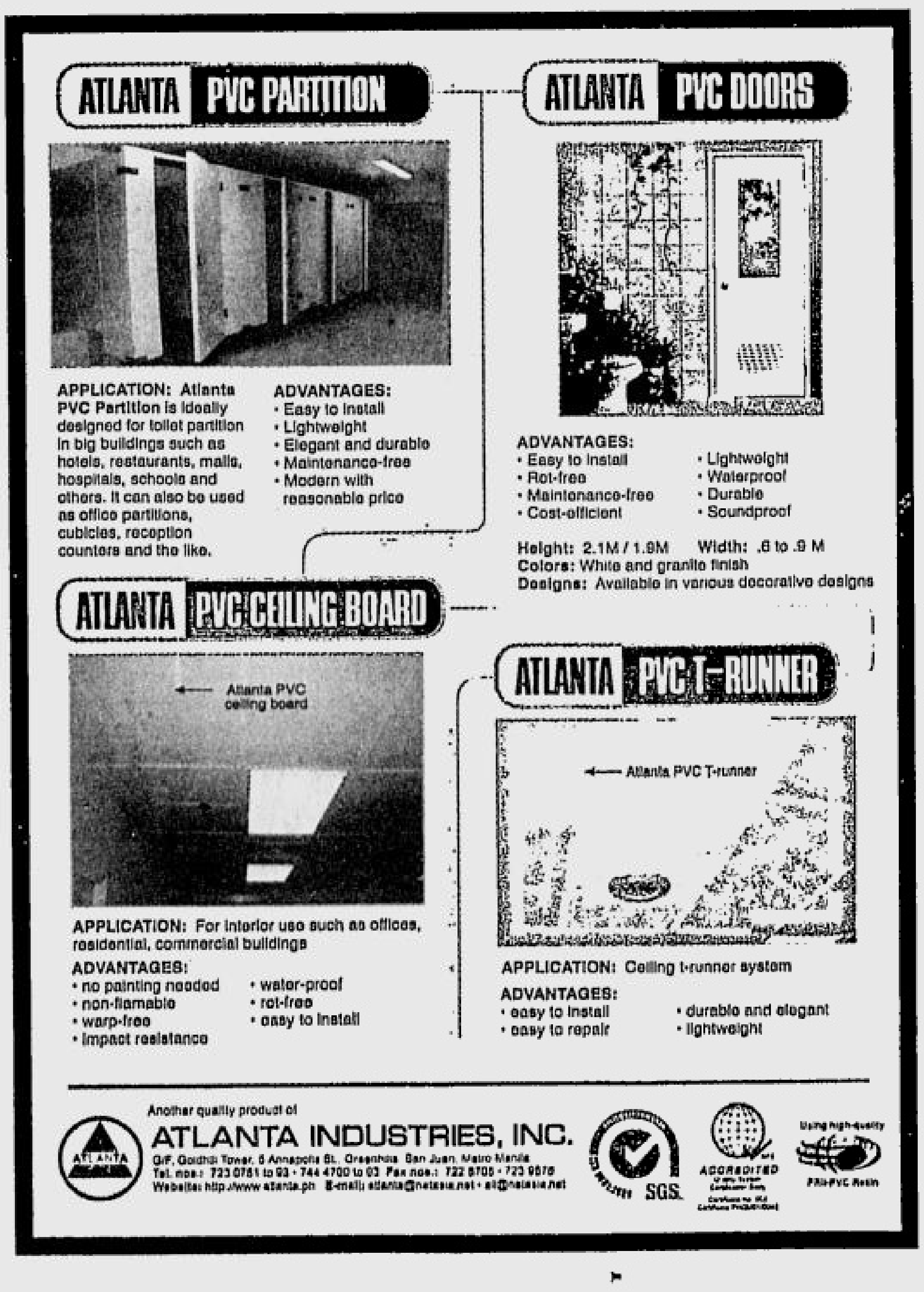
SARANGANI Province—A Singaporean investor engaged in palm oil production has started expanding its operations, according to Gov. Miguel Dominguez.

Dominguez said that CK Chiang of Singapore, which has existing palm oil plantations and oil mills in Bohol, Agusan Del Sur, and Palawan, bought a 300-hectare land in Maitum and Kiamba towns.

Dominguez said planting could take place early next year.

"This is just the start. We will try to find more areas for palm oil plantation once the project kicks off. We will convince and encourage our farmers to plant palm oil as we need at least a 10,000-hectare plantation before a palm oil mill can be put up," he said. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

@ Value Plus Prices!
PROGRESS
Your One Stop Shop Home & Office Furnishings
Key Box
Open Plan System
• QUEZON BRANCH:
73 Panay Avenue, Brgy. Paligsahan Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: (02) 374-5411, 374-5412, 374-5413
Telefax: (02) 373-2899
• MANDALUYONG BRANCH:
Corner Sheridan & Pines Sts., Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos.: (02) 637-4497, 632-9517, 634-0866
Telefax: (02) 637-4498
• ILOILO BRANCH:
10 Lopez Jaena St., Lapaz, Iloilo City
Tel. No.: (033) 320-1456
Telefax: (033) 320-5506
• CEBU-RECLAMATION BRANCH:
3rd Avenue, Reclamation Area, Cebu City
Tel. Nos.: (032) 412-8685, 412-8686, 412-8687, 231-6749
Telefax: (032) 412-8808
• BANAWA BRANCH:
Ramon Duterte St., Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 261-0125
Telefax: (032) 261-0251



ATLANTA PVC PARTITION
APPLICATION: Atlanta PVC Partition is ideally designed for toilet partition in big buildings such as hotels, restaurants, malls, hospitals, schools and others. It can also be used as office partitions, cubicles, reception counters and the like.
ADVANTAGES:
• Easy to install
• Lightweight
• Elegant and durable
• Maintenance-free
• Modern with reasonable price
ATLANTA PVC DOORS
ADVANTAGES:
• Easy to install
• Rot-free
• Maintenance-free
• Cost-efficient
• Lightweight
• Waterproof
• Durable
• Soundproof
Height: 2.1M / 1.9M Width: .6 to .9 M
Colors: White and granite finish
Designs: Available in various decorative designs
ATLANTA PVC CEILING BOARD
Atlanta PVC ceiling board
APPLICATION: For interior use such as offices, residential, commercial buildings
ADVANTAGES:
• no painting needed
• non-flamable
• warp-free
• impact resistance
• water-proof
• rot-free
• easy to install
ATLANTA PVC T-RUNNER
Atlanta PVC T-runner
APPLICATION: Ceiling t-runner system
ADVANTAGES:
• easy to install
• easy to repair
• durable and elegant
• lightweight
Another quality product of
ATLANTA INDUSTRIES, INC.
G/F, Goldhill Tower, 6 Annapolis St., Greenhills San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. nos.: 723 0761 to 93 • 744 4700 to 03 Fax nos.: 722 8705 • 723 9578
Website: http://www.atlanta.ph E-mail: atlanta@netasia.net • ai@netasia.net
SGS
ACCREDITED
Using high-quality PRI-PVC Resin

Smart inks $70-M Nokia deal

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART Communications Inc. has signed a $70-million deal with Nokia Networks for the supply of equipment in line with its continued network expansion.

The country's largest wireless company and the Finnish vendor also said they would cooperate to create and test new technologies and solutions.

The $70-million deal includes a GSM network solutions that would help Smart penetrate the mass market more efficiently, it said in a statement.

GSM or global system for mobile is the digital technology used by the country's wireless operators.

"Smart aims to offer innovative, reliable and affordable mobile services as widely as possible. These investments will allow us to deliver life-enhancing services to our subscribers," said Smart president Napoleon Nazareno.

Capital outlay

Smart had set aside $117 million in capital outlay for phase seven of its network expansion program, which will start this year and spill over to 2005.

Included in this program is the roll-out in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao as well as improvement of coverage in densely-populated cities.

In July, the company raised $104 million in five-year funds from a syndicate of foreign banks to finance the expansion program.

The balance of $13 million would come from internally-generated funds.

"Smart's GSM network expansion and enhancements are geared towards providing cost-effective coverage and increasing current subscriber capacity for better customer service," said Ramon Fernandez, the company's head for administration and materials management division.

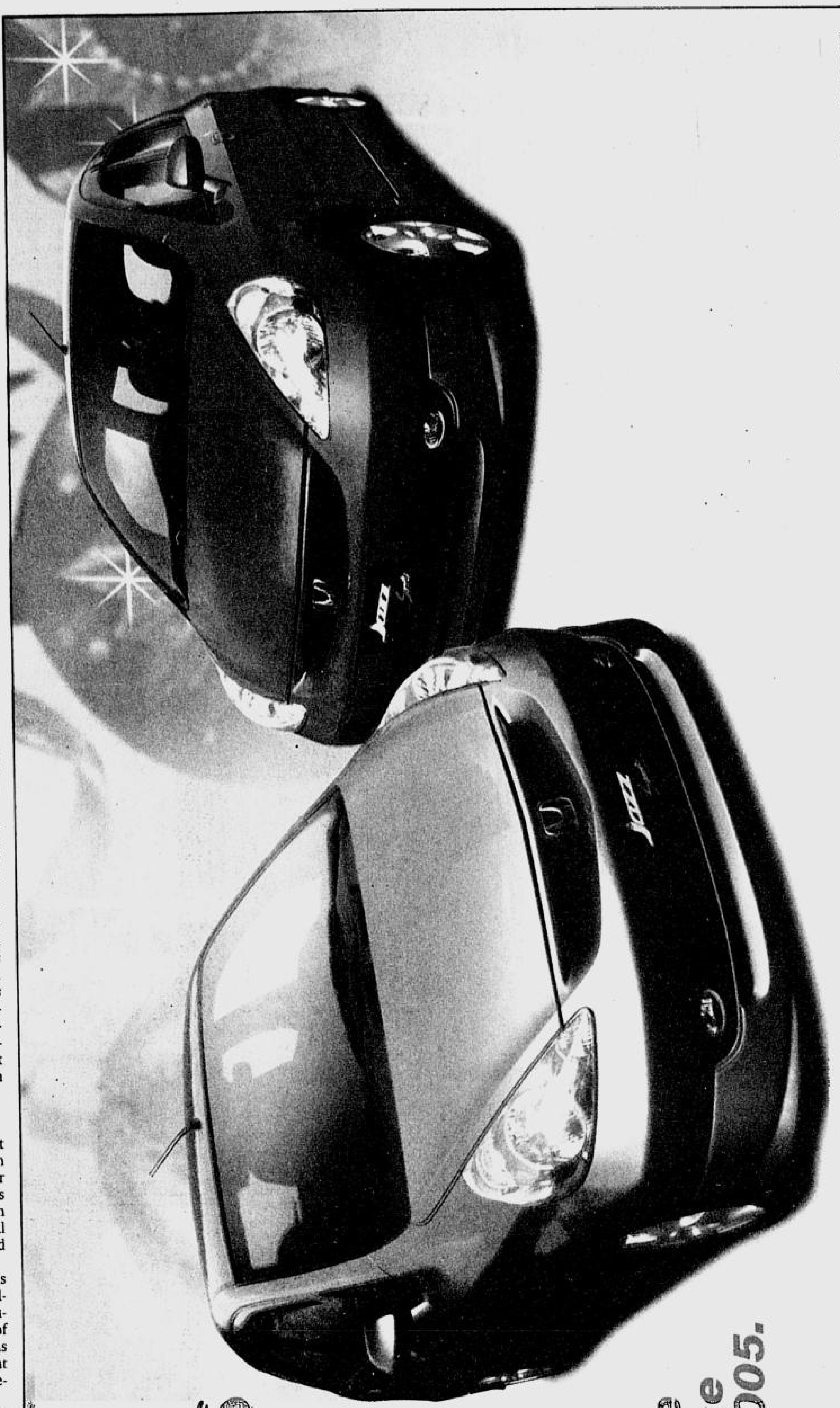
Smart, he said, aimed to provide telecommunications services to remote areas that have yet to be fully served.

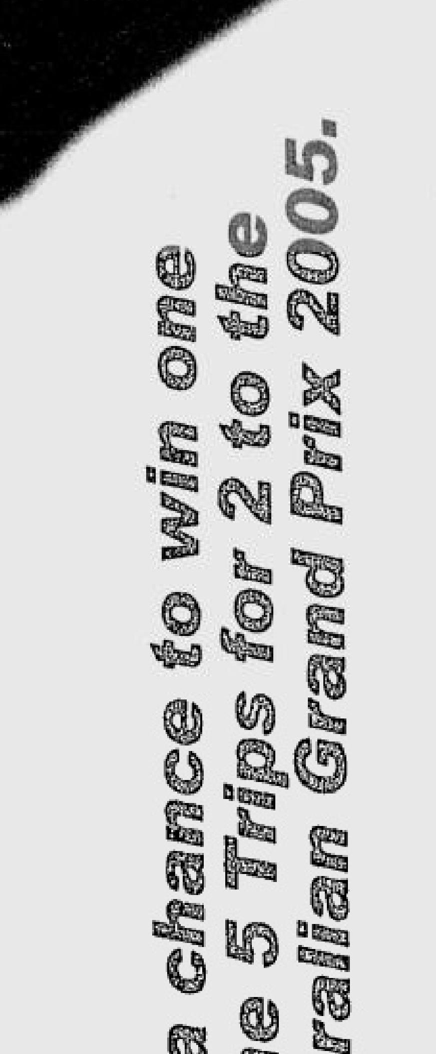
Quality service

Nokia Networks vowed to deliver high quality service and equipment to Smart.

"The world recognizes Smart as an innovation leader in the delivery of value added services. Nokia intends to continue supporting Smart to help satisfy the needs of the market through the delivery of a high quality network," said Markku Nieminen, Nokia Networks' account director for Smart.

Smart and Talk N' Text, the mobile brand of Pilipino Telephone Corp. have recorded 17.5 million subscribers as of end-September.





Honda Holiday Treats

2 Honda Jazz Sports Edition and 5 Trips for two to the Australian Grand Prix at stake this Christmas for all Honda car buyers

Jazz Sports Limited Edition

- Tail gate spoiler
- Front, rear and side lower skirt
- Fog lamp
- Door visor
- Hydrophilic paint protection

Get a chance to win one of the 5 Trips for 2 to the Australian Grand Prix 2005.

Promo mechanics
- Each purchase of a Honda vehicle corresponds to the number of coupons the customer gets:

Honda City	2 coupons
Honda Jazz	3 coupons
Honda Civic	4 coupons
Honda CR-V	5 coupons
Honda Accord	6 coupons

- Promo participants can win any of the following:
*One (1) of two (2) Honda Jazz Sports Edition cars
*One (1) of five (5) trips for two to Melbourne, Australia to watch the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix on March 6, 2005

Get a BONUS of up to P85,000*

* Instant cash bonus for all buyers will depend on model/variant purchased.

SEE FLYERS FOR DETAILS. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5726 Series of 2004

Deadline of entries December 29, 2004.
Raffle Draw will be on January 10, 2005.

More Christmas sur-Prizes at Stake!

Test drive any Honda car & get a chance to win a:
- 29" Philips Flat TV with DVD player
- Philips Hi-Fi component
- Honda premium items

U.L.T. Photo Contest

Send in your best U.L.T. seat photo & win up to P50,000 cash & an Epson photo printer. Deadline is extended to Dec. 29, 2004.

HONDA
www.hondaphil.com

Visit any authorized dealers for details:

Metro Manila
Honda Cars Makati, Inc. - Tel No.: (02) 852 4181, Fax No. 852 1158
Honda Cars Alabang Tel. No.: (02) 807 7889, Fax No.: 809 5052
Honda Cars Kalookan, Inc. Tel No.:(02) 366 5701, Fax No.: 361 8445
Honda Cars Pasig Tel. No.: (02) 634 2730, Fax No.: 637 2982
Honda Cars Quezon City, Inc. Tel. Nos.:(02) 712 6850 to 61, Fax No.: 732 8559
Honda Cars Shaw Tel. No.:(02) 717 1681, Fax No.:725 7673
Honda Cars Manila Tel. No.: (02) 562 4546, Fax No.: 564 7336
Honda Cars Fairview Tel. Nos.: (02) 9352655, 9352617, Fax No.: 9357864
Honda Cars Marikina Tel. Nos.: (02) 9426202, 9980512, Fax No.: 9423561

Provincial
Honda Cars Cebu, Inc. Tel. No.: (032) 2313502, Fax No.: (032) 2314488
Honda Cars San Pablo, Inc. Tel. Nos.:(049) 5627713 to 14, Fax No.: (049) 5627712
Honda Cars Pangasinan, Inc. Tel. Nos.: (075) 5221488 to 89 Fax No.: (075) 5173739
Honda Cars Davao, Inc. Tel. Nos.: (082) 2217406, 2222171, Fax No.: (082) 2217407
Honda Cars Pampanga, Inc. Tel. No.: (045) 9635119, Fax No.: (045) 9635554
Honda Cars Negros Occidental Tel. No.: (034) 7078000, Fax No.: (034) 4411276
Honda Cars Tarlac, Inc. Tel. Nos.: (045) 9828002 to 06, Fax No. (045) 9828007
Honda Cars Cagayan De Oro Tel. Nos.: (088) 8584010 to 12, Fax No (088) 8584015
Honda Cars Gen. Santos, Inc. Tel. Nos.: (083) 5539796 to 97, Fax No.: (083) 3013109
Honda Cars Isabela, Inc. Tel. No.: (078) 6521245, Fax No.: (078) 6521248
Honda Cars Mandaue Tel. No.: (032) 4223700, Fax No.: (032) 4223600

NCCP wrong on mining law

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

SHARON Ruiz-Duremdes, general secretary of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, wrote to the INQUIRER that the NCCP was "greatly dismayed at the Supreme Court decision reversing its earlier ruling on the Philippine Mining Act of 1995."

Last April, the court ruled that the Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement under the Mining Act was unconstitutional. The FTAA is a contract between the government and a foreigner. Basically, the foreigner pours in money and technical expertise to develop and operate a mine.

After the investor has gotten back his investment from the initial sales of minerals (usually the sales for the first five years), he then takes only 40 percent of the ensuing income. The 60 percent is split, in fixed percentages, by the barangay, the municipality, the province and the national government. The FTAA is a close relative of the build-operate-transfer (BOT) agreements on toll highways.

Now, the Supreme Court, after going over a motion for reconsideration, has ruled that the FTAA is constitutional, after all.

Outdated and obsolete

The NCCP is "greatly dismayed" over the new ruling, or so claims the secretary general. Was this dismay agreed upon in a general membership meeting, a synod, a referendum, or a board meeting? Or was Ruiz-Duremdes working alone?

She claims that the NCCP affirms its stand against the liberalization of the mining industry by calling for the scrapping of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995. Was this affirmation arrived at in a general membership meeting? Or did Ruiz-Duremdes act alone?

If the 1995 law is scrapped, then we will be scrapping all its progressive features, such as environmental protection. The mining industry will be regulated under the old law, which is outdated and obsolete.

If, indeed, the NCCP, as a whole, stands against the "intensified extraction of our mineral resources endowed by the Almighty Creator," it is time to review the age-old relationship between the churches and the industry.

If there were no mining in the time of Pontius Pilate, there would have been no nails of iron, no Crucifixion, no Redemption. For 2,000 years, the Christian churches, Catholic and Protestant, have been the biggest users of products of the mining industry. Cathedrals and basilicas rise to the skies on skeletons of structural steel. The paten, chalice and the monstrance are all of solid gold.

Dishonest and hypocritical

Today, NCCP would not be able to build a barrio chapel without using reinforcing bars, cement, gravel, sand, and corrugated iron sheets. The chapel will not be lighted without copper wires and tungsten filaments.

On May 21, 2003, the INQUIRER carried a story on page one that the United Church of Christ of the Philippines, among other organizations, was a front of the Communist Party of the Philippines. In a speech in Cagayan de Oro last July, my very good friend, Caesar Agnir, president of the Northern Christian College in Laoag, said: "the reality is that those who are perceived to be involved with the Communist Party of the Philippines and its front organizations are deeply entrenched in the leadership of the UCCP at all levels—national, jurisdictional, conference and sometimes local church."

Agnir went on: "One cannot be a member of both a Christian church and a communist organization without being thoroughly dishonest and hypocritical ... One has to renounce one affiliation or the other."

Lousy communist

In her letter to the INQUIRER, Ruiz-Duremdes, not only was maliciously inaccurate, but she clung closely to the communist line against all kinds of economic development in the barrios. She has to be a lousy communist.

My suggestion to her is this: please read the Mining Act. It is clear in her letter that she has not read it at all. If she does not have a copy, I will send her one.

Finally, she should also read the Bible. I am not much of a Bible reader myself, but her letter must have broken not a few verses of the Good Book.

Give tax amnesty a chance, says DOF

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is asking the public to give the proposed tax amnesty a chance.

DOF officials have convinced critics that the proposal, although considered a failure in the past, will fulfill the objective of widening the tax base to beef up revenue collection this time around.

Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan said in an interview that the DOF would not drop the tax amnesty plan just because skeptics—including the business sector and foreign creditors—did not buy the idea that it would boost the country's ailing fiscal sector.

"From the very beginning we have not wavered on our stand," said Tan.

She added that the DOF would push for the tax amnesty proposal until it breezes through Congress.

Tan said that what would make the current tax amnesty plan a success in boosting government's revenue is the twin proposal of mandatory and regular filing of statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs) of all taxpayers. With the database of taxpayers' SALNs, the government will be able to track down discrepancies between tax liabilities and actual tax remittances.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue is currently preparing its database system to accommodate the huge volume of taxpayers' data, the finance official said.

Business groups, such as the Makati Business Club (MBC), were not in favor of having another tax amnesty because, they said, it would only encourage tax evasion.

The MBC earlier warned that granting amnesty to tax evaders now would only invite other taxpayers to delay their tax payments until the time the government would offer another amnesty program.

The International Monetary Fund also earlier expressed a disapproving comment on the tax amnesty. The multilateral lender said that unlike other fiscal-reform measures of the Arroyo administration, the tax amnesty was really not a program for revenue generation.

But according to the DOF, the grant of a one-time tax amnesty, if it comes with a tool to detect future tax delinquency, will not fail.

Tan clarified that the granting of a one-time tax amnesty is just a component of the plan to require the mandatory and regular filing of SALNs. She said it is the filing of SALNs that will help government catch tax delinquents and collect appropriate taxes.

The tax amnesty plan, one of the legislative proposals of the Arroyo administration to ease the country's fiscal problem, has already been approved on second reading by the House of Representatives.

Under House Bill No. 2933, individuals and companies with unpaid taxes for 2003 and prior years may apply for an amnesty. Qualified applicants will only be required to pay an amnesty tax equivalent to 3 percent of their net worth as of end-2003 in lieu of their unsettled tax liabilities.

As a safeguard, taxpayers with pending criminal cases of tax evasion, graft and corruption, and money-laundering will not be entitled to an amnesty.

But taxpayers with pending initial assessments with the Bureau of Internal Revenue or BIR will still be covered by the amnesty. They will be required to pay 10 percent of their tax liabilities, exclusive of interests, surcharges and penalties, and in addition to the 3-percent amnesty tax.

Those who have been given final assessment notices by the BIR may also apply for an amnesty. But, in addition to the 3-percent amnesty tax, they will also have to pay 25 percent of the amount of tax assessed, exclusive of interests, surcharges and penalties.

The tax amnesty plan is expected to generate some P16 billion in additional revenue for the government by encouraging underground businesses to come out and become legitimate taxpayers.

TREES ARE UP, BUT SALES ARE DOWN Workers at Tamilee Decors prepare a Christmas tree, one of the decorations that the company exports to the United States and other developed countries. The industry of decor-manufacturers, although known for the quality of products, has seen sales slump in recent years in the face of stiff competition from lower-cost manufacturers in China. AFP

Oil exec fears hike in fuel prices by 50¢

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GRADUAL but steady increase in world crude prices and the impending imposition of a higher tariff on crude and refined petroleum product imports will likely hike local pump prices by a minimum of 50 centavos a liter, an oil industry executive said.

Fernando Martinez, Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association chair, said the slowly rising cost of crude in the world market would likely jack up local prices by 20 centavos a liter, while the imposition of a 5-percent levy on crude and finished product imports starting Jan. 1, 2005 would affect pump prices by 30 centavos.

If current prices, though lower than those posted in October and November, would be sustained up to next month, he said local oil firms might have to implement price increases, particularly on the socially sensitive diesel.

Local oil firms had tried to hold off price increases for diesel because of the impact these would have on the operational costs of the public transport sector.

However, recent sky-high prices prompted local firms to jack up the prices of both gasoline and diesel, with higher price increases slapped on gasoline to subsidize the relatively lower price hikes imposed on diesel.

Martinez said local oil firms still had some P1.50 a liter in diesel under-recoveries to recoup, while margins in gasoline only reached P1 a liter.

Under-recoveries refer to hikes in international prices that are not reflected in local pump prices.

Although the Department of Energy and consumer watchdog Consumer and Oil Price Watch had both said that a price rollback was in order right about now, Martinez said it would be difficult to speculate on prices due to the volatility of international market prices.

As of Dec. 15, the benchmark Dubai crude increased slightly to an average of $33.66 a barrel, from only $33.55 a barrel two days before.

While the price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) bellwether for refined petroleum products stayed relatively low at an average of $45.31 a barrel as of Dec. 15, MOPS-based diesel again increased to a Dec. 1-15 average of $51.08 a barrel from $50.92 a barrel two days prior.

"If crude prices in January are higher than those in December, we don't know how we can maintain current pump prices, especially in diesel," he said.

BSP to sink in $100M in proposed Asia bond fund

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas plans to contribute $100 million to the proposed $2-billion Asian Bond Fund 2 recently launched by 11 central banks and monetary authorities comprising the Executives' Meeting of East Asia Pacific Central Banks (EMEAP).

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the EMEAP's $2-billion investment in ABF2 was an amount the group members considered "neither too large that it would crowd out private sector investors, nor too small that it could not benefit from economies of scale in terms of supporting the necessary infrastructure for the fund."

The ABF2, which will invest in domestic currency bonds issued by sovereign and quasi-sovereign issuers in EMEAP economies—except Australia, Japan and New Zealand—builds further on the successful launch of the first stage of the Asian Bond Fund (ABF1) in June 2003.

The first Asian Bond Fund worth $1 billion is now invested in US dollar-denominated bonds issued by sovereign and quasi-sovereign issuers in eight EMEAP markets. The BSP likewise shelled out $100 million for the ABF1.

The framework for ABF2 comprises the Pan-Asian Bond Index Fund (PAIF) and the eight Country Sub-Funds. Its implementation shall be divided into two phases.

In Phase 1, investment will be confined to EMEAP central banks only. In Phase 2, the eight Country Sub-Funds and the PAIF will be open to investment by other public and private sector investors.

The PAIF, subject to the approval by the relevant authorities, will be based in Singapore and listed in Hong Kong. The eight Sub-Funds will be based in their respective jurisdictions and, where appropriate, listed on the respective stock exchanges in the eight EMEAP economies.

"The portion of the Philippines in the PAIF and the Philippine Sub-Fund will be invested mostly in government securities," Buenaventura said. "For phase 2, the Philippine Sub-Fund is envisioned to be listed either at the Philippine Stock Exchange or at the soon-to-be launched Fixed Income Exchange."

The BSP chief said the listing of the Philippine Sub-Fund would facilitate price discovery and enhance the secondary trading of the fund.

The launch of ABF2 marks a watershed in central banking cooperation to promote the development of the domestic and regional bond markets in Asia, he said.

"The BSP believes that the ABF2 will have a significant developmental impact on the Philippine domestic bond market which is crucial to the country's long-term economic stability," Buenaventura said.

Other members of the EMEAP group are: Reserve Bank of Australia, People's Bank of China, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Bank Indonesia, Bank of Japan, Bank of Korea, Bank Negara Malaysia, Reserve Bank of New Zealand, Monetary Authority of Singapore and Bank of Thailand.

PLDT, Globe shrug off threat of downgrade

By Clarissa S. Batino

ANY RATING or outlook downgrade on the debts of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom Inc. will not hurt the two firms, according to PLDT and Globe officials.

"We are not likely to borrow next year," said PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno in an interview. "In that sense, we will not be directly affected by the outlook downgrade."

The PLDT chief pointed out that the company had been reducing its total obligations. Today, the telco giant is scheduled to prepay a $106-million loan. This would reduce the debt at the parent firm level to about $2 billion.

"We are paying down debt," Nazareno said. "For that reason, we are in fact viewed as an improving credit."

Delfin Gonzalez, Globe chief financial officer, on the other hand said that the company would not be issuing any new bonds next year.

Globe sold P3-billion worth of five-year bonds in the first quarter and raised $100 million of bonds due in 2012.

"I see no impact on our borrowings next year as we have no plans to raise new bonds," the finance chief said.

Gonzalez had earlier expressed preference for a peso loan to help finance Globe's estimated $350 million capital expenditures in 2005.

Gonzalez said that the outlook downgrade on Globe merely followed the same action taken by Fitch Ratings on sovereign debt. Fitch had earlier revised its outlook on Philippine debt to negative from stable on account of fiscal weakness and increasing public sector debt.

Fitch stressed that the outlook downgrade on PLDT and Globe was in line with the sovereign debt.

Nazareno, however, admitted that on a macroeconomic level, PLDT and all other companies would feel the impact of any downgrade on sovereign debt.

"We are not spared on a macro level from the negative effects of a sovereign downgrade," he said.

Fitch said it kept a stable outlook on PLDT's long-term peso borrowing, believing this would not be affected by any adverse changes in the sovereign grade.

A downgrade in the rating or even the outlook tends to raise the cost of the rated firm's borrowing as it indicated more risks, giving investors more reason to demand a higher return for their placements.

The debts of PLDT and Globe are rated BB—two notches below investment grade—by both Fitch and Standard & Poor's.

Moody's Investors Service gave the two phone giants an equivalent mark of Ba2. But the New York-based agency had warned of a possible downgrade.

In April, Fitch upgraded the rating of PLDT's local and foreign currency debt to BB from BB minus after it was announced that Smart Communications Inc., PLDT's cash rich unit, would buy debts and control of Pilipino Telephone Corp.

PLDT is planning to cut debts by at least $500 million next year.

PLDT's debt reduction strategy is more ambitious in 2005 compared to this year. It plans to shave off $350 million in its outstanding obligations. The decision to prepay debt would bring to $450 million the total borrowings PLDT retired in 2004.

Of the PLDT Group's outstanding $2.99-billion debt, $2.2 billion are owed by the fixed-line business. Wireless subsidiaries Smart and Piltel have a combined obligation of $718 million.

As of end September, Globe had around $926 million in debt, 80 percent of which are foreign denominated. With its foreign exchange swap contracts, Globe's foreign denominated debt has effectively been reduced to 55 percent of total debt.

Globe has $160 million of debts maturing in 2005 and $168 million in 2006. The company said it has enough internal funds to settle its debts even as third quarter profits of P2 billion fell 34 percent against the same period last year.

Gonzalez said the company would continue to hedge its foreign exposure. He said of the 55 percent of Globe's debt in dollars, about 40 percent was hedged.

UNDP, Australia agency boost RP lending firms

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE UNITED Nations Development Program and the Australian Agency for International Development are firming up an agreement to share the $1-million cost needed to develop the local microfinance sector.

The UNDP said in a statement that once finalized, the facility would be used to extend the National Anti-Poverty Commission's microfinance sector strengthening project (MSSP).

UNDP resident representative Deborah Landey said microfinance was a critical component of poverty reduction that lay at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as Malacañang's 10-point agenda.

The MDG agenda is the pledge of over 100 countries during a 2000 summit to address issues including poverty and hunger reduction, achievement of primary education, promotion of gender equity, and reduction of child mortality.

Landey said the extension of the MSSP would mark the International Year of Microcredit in 2005. The celebration is meant to step up efforts to make microfinance facilities accessible to more beneficiaries.

The MSSP was designed to meet the rising demand for microfinance services by underserved poor households in the countryside.

This recently concluded program contributed to almost a quarter of the national target of 1 million clients by helping Center for Community Transformation, LifeBank and Center for Agriculture and Rural Development expand their outreach using the Association for Social Advancement methodology—a program first used in Bangladesh.

CCT, LifeBank and CARD reported a 134-percent increase in clients over the baseline set 18 months at the start of the project.

The UNDP said the MSSP was also rated recently as the best performing UNDP-supported program among 66 countries evaluated in a survey sponsored by the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Metrobank to auction MPC's Fort

METROBANK has obtained a court-approved foreclosure order on Metro Pacific's remaining 10-hectare-plus Fort Bonifacio property as well as 20 condominium units in the posh Pacific Plaza Towers.

According to the grapevine, Metrobank formally served the foreclosure order on MPC Friday afternoon.

Worse, Metrobank has already set a public auction for MPC's remaining crown jewels tomorrow, after having published as required the notice of the sheriff sale in a hardly known trade paper.

The seized 10 hectares of still undeveloped land are located along Kalayaan Avenue and Gate 1 of the former military reservation. MPC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan at one point considered relocating the bulk of the PLDT operations there in a planned Microsoft-type "campus" environment.

According to the grapevine, Metrobank until last month was considering a combination cash payment and asset swap with MPC to help the latter extinguish its P2.4-billion obligation.

It was not immediately clear what precipitated Metrobank to cut off negotiations and instead file extra-judicial proceedings with the Pasig Regional Trial Court to foreclose on the real estate mortgage.

According to the grapevine, MPC was caught by surprise by the court order when it first heard of it unofficially.

Both Metrobank and MPC declined to comment.

With the loss of Fort Bonifacio as a result of the currency crisis to, first, the Ayalas, and now, to Metrobank, MPC's once considerable real estate empire has been reduced to the Terrazas de Punta Fuego and Costa de Madera resorts in Batangas, the Pacific Mall in Lucena, plus other provincial projects.

These projects, in various stages of arrested development, are scattered in Cabanatuan and General Santos cities, Batulao (Batangas), Urdaneta and Calasiao (Pangasinan), Talisay (Cebu), San Pedro (Laguna), and Lemery (Batangas).

Pacific puzzler

AND SPEAKING of Metro Pacific, its Hong Kong-based parent First Pacific Co. has been named as one of the 21 respondents in absconder proceedings initiated by Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption under the colony's anti-money laundering ordinance.

First in the list of those respondents is a Filipino national, Amador Pastrana, 32, who has been identified in previous news reports as the "king" of illegal boiler room operations in the region.

It is not clear what role, if any, First Pacific was being implicated for. The absconder proceedings, if successfully concluded with the HK Court of First Instance, would lead to the confiscation of certain assets that would be disclosed when the trial gets underway in March.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

According to a published notice of legal proceedings, First Pacific is being made to answer under the so-called Section 8 of the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance Cap 455, which requires money changers and remittance centers to comply with anti-money laundering measures such as customer identification and keeping of transaction records involving HK$20,000 or more.

The ICAC coordinated with the Securities and Exchange Commission through Assistant Director Ma. Elmira Alconaba of the Compliance and Enforcement Department to serve the required notices to the Philippine-based parties.

Of the 21 respondents, it appears that only Pastrana and one other company are classified as Filipinos.

The majority are apparently HK-registered companies.

Heard through the grapevine

THE KUOKS have committed to speed up the delivery of their "seven star" Shang Grand Tower condominium in Legaspi Village in July, instead of December 2005 as had been announced.

(E-mail: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Gov't to launch integrated anti-corruption drive in '05

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL government is preparing to launch next year an integrated anti-corruption drive in 2005.

The plan was hatched during a three-day anti-corruption workshop that had experts from Hong Kong as resource persons.

During the workshop held last Dec. 15-16, Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said representatives from various government agencies had plotted the national government's action plans against corruption.

The workshop lead resource person was Hong Kong's top anti-corruption leader Tony Man-wal Kwok.

"We now have specific action plans that we will pursue to prevent and deter corruption and, at the same time, educate people on how to enforce anti-corruption practices," Amatong said in a press briefing last Friday.

The Philippine government, whose suffering from a fiscal crisis is partly blamed on corruption, wants to imitate the success of Hong Kong in implementing strict and efficient anti-corruption programs.

During the workshop, participating government agencies were able to develop the Integrity Development Action Plan (IDAP), which calls for the implementation of several anti-corruption measures.

The IDAP is divided into three categories: prevention, deterrence and education.

Under the prevention category, one measure will be the adoption of a single ID (identification) system for government officials and employees, and the implementation of electronic bidding for government infrastructure projects, and procurement of goods and services to promote transparency.

The IDAP also calls for the institutionalization of a performance-evaluation system, which is intended to be done through the conduct of cross-rating reports both by individuals and organizations.

Another is the implementation of an integrity check system that will apply to the recruitment and promotion of government personnel, and the conduct of the so-called Integrity Development Review among corruption-prone agencies. The recommendations of the study will be the basis for the development of control systems in government agencies.

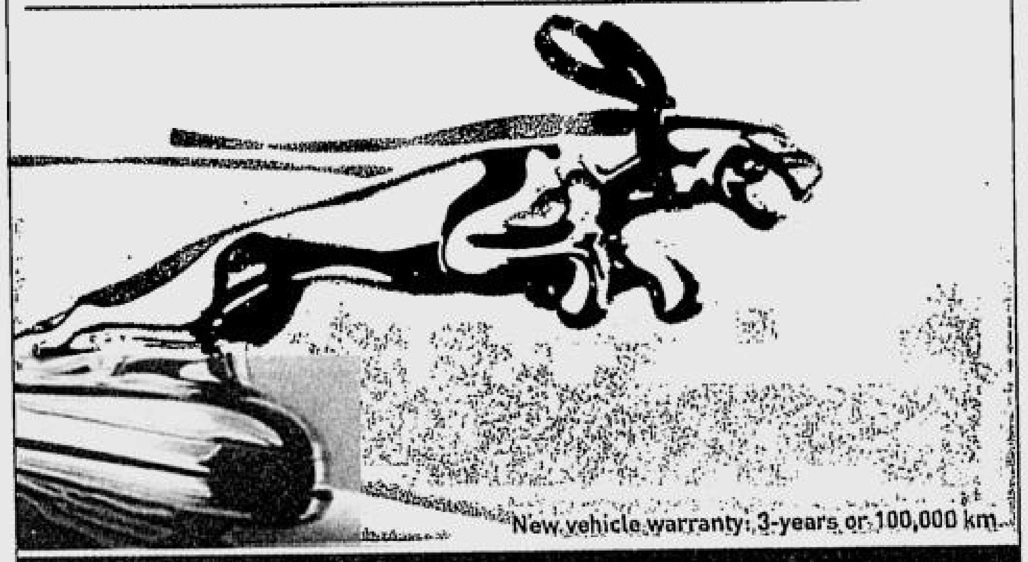
Lastly under the prevention category, the IDAP calls for the limitation in the salary deductions of government employees to allow them to have decent take-home pay. This way, government employees will be less tempted to engage in corrupt practices. The IDAP suggests that the threshold for monthly salary deductions, such as for payments of loan amortization and services fees for private lenders, be set at P4,961.

To deter corruption, IDAP calls for the creation of an internal complaint unit in each government agency, and its adoption of protection measures for whistle-blowers.

The government also intends to have names of offenders published in online database for public access.

To educate government workers to enforce anti-corruption programs, IDAP calls for several learning programs, such as the preparation of agency-specific code of ethical standards. Under this plan, all government agencies are tasked to have customized code before the end of 2005.

Zero interest for a Merry, Merry Christmas
Unwrap a Jaguar this Holiday Season
with our financing packages and find yourself saying h0% h0% h0%!
Call for details, better still, COME VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS.



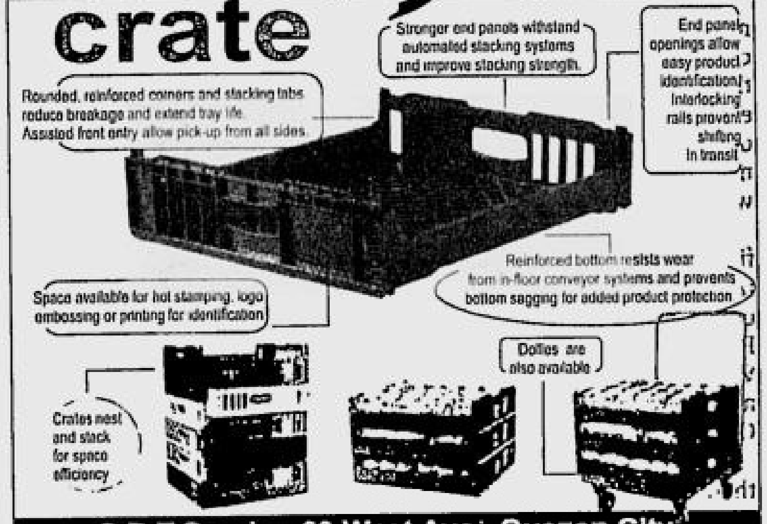
JAGUAR CARS, INC.
MAKATI SHOWROOM
ENZO Bldg., 399 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel: (632) 897-8888 Fax: (632) 895-2677
E-mail: sales@jaguar.com.ph

SERVICE CENTER
3904 Quingua St. (near EDSA/BUENDIA), Makati City
Tel:(632) 881-7252;(632) 881-7060 Fax:(632) 882-6503
Jaguar Service Helpline: +63 9209-JAGUAR (+63 9209-524827)
E-mail: service_ctr@jaguar.com.ph

ORTIGAS SHOWROOM
88 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel: (632) 633-3976 to 78
Fax: (632) 633-3976 to 77

JAGUAR
Born to perform

bakery crate Sentinel®


Stronger end panels withstand automated stacking systems and improve stacking strength.
End panel openings allow easy product identification. Interlocking rails prevent shifting in transit
Rounded, reinforced corners and stacking tabs reduce breakage and extend tray life. Assisted front entry allow pick-up from all sides.
Reinforced bottom resists wear from in-floor conveyor systems and prevents bottom sagging for added product protection
Space available for hot stamping, logo embossing or printing for identification
Dollies are also available
Crates nest and stack for space efficiency

C.B.T.Condo., 60 West Ave., Quezon City
Tels.: +63 2 373.97.97 • 416.52.18-19
sales@sentinel.com.ph • www.sentinel.com.ph

Singapore Airlines
Travelog

New Year deals, travel in January!

SINGAPORE US$199 Valid SQ73/SQ74 Two to go	JAKARTA US$299 Valid SQ73/SQ166 or SQ73/SQ168 Two to go
BANGKOK US$249 Valid SQ73/SQ974 and SQ61/SQ74 Two to go	SURABAYA US$299 Valid SQ71/SQ134 and SQ133/SQ76. Two to go
KUALA LUMPUR US$249 Valid SQ73/SQ118 and SQ111/SQ76 Two to go	BRISBANE US$399 Valid SQ75/SQ255 and SQ256/SQ76 Two to go
PENANG US$249 Valid SQ73/SQ198 and SQ191/SQ74 Two to go	PERTH US$399 Valid SQ75/SQ225 and SQ224/SQ76 Two to go
DENPASAR US$299 Valid SQ73/SQ148 and SQ141/SQ74 Two to go	SYDNEY US$479 Valid SQ75/SQ231 and SQ220/SQ76 Two to go

Book and buy ONLINE at www.singaporeair.com/ph

A GREAT WAY TO FLY
www.singaporeair.com/ph
SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Airfares are also available through your travel agent. Or you may call SIA Reservations at 810 4951 to 59.

Valid for departures from Manila from 10 to 31 January 2005. Travel must be completed by 03 February 2005. Seven (7) days advance purchase applies. Tickets must be issued between 15 December 2004 and 24 January 2005. All fares quoted are per person based on non-accruable Economy Class travel, and exclude taxes, fees and other surcharges. Two persons must travel together. Stop in Singapore not allowed for tickets beyond Singapore. Same rate applies for children below 12 years old. Other terms and conditions apply.

Lose the weight, lose the wires.

centrino™
MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

Powered by Intel® Centrino™ mobile technology, the NEO Q-Note wireless notebook is the PC that's light enough to take anywhere.
And since it's wireless, you can connect from thousands of hotspots.

This holiday season, treat yourself to a NEO Q-Note powered by Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology.
Get special savings at 0% Interest for 12 months from Nov. 15, 2004 to Jan. 15, 2004. Give yourself the perfect gift. Get a Neo Q-Note today!

Q-NOTE M360C/M360CB
- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725 (1.60 GHz processor, 2MB L2 cache, 400 MHz FSB)
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG LAN 3B Mini PCI Adapter
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- 14" TFT XGA Display (1024x768)
- Combo DVD + CDRW Drive
- 56K Modem, 10/100 LAN
- 2x USB 2.0, 1 x 1394 Firewire port
- Built-in Webcam
- Weighs approx 2.75Kg
- Optional 2nd 12 cell battery
- Free Carry Case

₱5,416.58
Per month x 12 mos
SRP 64,999.00

Q-NOTE T210 TABLET PC
- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725 (1.60 GHz processor, 2MB L2 cache, 400 MHz FSB)
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG LAN 3B Mini PCI Adaptor
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- 14" TFT XGA Display (1024x768)
- Combo DVD + CDRW Drive
- 56K Modem, 10/100 LAN
- 2x USB 2.0
- 4-in-1 Memory Card Reader
- Built-in Webcam
- Weighs approx 2.6Kg
- Free Carry Case

₱6,249.92
Per month x 12 mos
SRP 74,999.00

Q-NOTE M121W/M121WB
- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725 (1.60 GHz processor, 2MB L2 cache, 400 MHz FSB)
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG LAN 3B Mini PCI Adapter
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- 12.1" TFT WXGA Display (1280x800)
- Combo DVD + CDRW Drive
- 56K Modem, 10/100 LAN
- 2x USB 2.0
- Infrared
- Built-in Webcam
- Weighs approx 2Kg
- Free Carry Case

₱6,333.25
Per month x 12 mos
SRP 75,999.00

FREE!
Canon IP1000 Bubble Jet Printer & Canon LS-12PC USB-Calculator
PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 5528 SERIES OF 2004

See flyers for more details

NEO
Q-NOTE SERIES
www.neo.com.ph

Intel, Intel logo, Intel Inside, the Intel Inside logo, Intel Centrino, Intel Centrino logo, Celeron, Intel Xeon, Intel Speedstep, Itanium, Pentium, and Pentium III Xeon are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries.
Wireless connectivity and some features may require you to purchase additional software, services or external hardware. Availability of public wireless LAN access points limited. System performance measured by MobileMark* 2002. System performance, battery life, wireless performance and functionality will vary depending on your specific hardware and software configurations.

Accepted Major Credit Cards for 0% Installment : BANKARD, BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, DINERS CLUB INTERNATIONAL, STANDARD CHARTERED BANK
[illegible]
PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 5444 SERIES OF 2004

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Telcos bid to raise VAT rate in lieu of new taxes backed

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE TELECOM industry should not be singled out by the government in trying to raise more revenue and focus should instead shift in increasing the value-added tax rate, according to the Foundation for Economic Freedom.

The Arroyo administration is targeting to raise at least P10 billion in additional revenue from the telecom sector as part of its P80-billion revenue reform package.

"Improvements in telco services and costs have not only led to fostering community building, it has also led to lowered cost of doing business and increased Philippine industries' competitiveness especially for communications-based industries like IT, call centers, business process outsource, and others," FEF president Alex Magno said.

The FEF is a non-government group composed of analysts, economists and academicians.

VAT is an indirect tax of 10 percent slapped only on the value added by a company. While this burden creates a chain of accountability among taxpayers, there are loopholes that have led to huge tax leakages.

Telecom companies are amenable to increasing the rate by 2 percentage points to 12 percent. The finance department said that for several years, most telecom firms, including the profitable ones, have not paid a single cent of VAT.

However, the telecom firms said they had high-value purchases for their network expansion that were VAT deductible.

The FEF said the government should lift the exemptions on VAT, including those given to lawyers and the petroleum sector.

"Even without factoring in the effect of lifting exemptions, the increase in rate alone can raise revenues by P30 billion per year," Magno said.

He said with the coming legislation of the "sin" tax bill or the adjustment of excise taxes on beer and tobacco, the government was closer to achieving its P80-billion target.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. had said it was not opposed to new taxes and was open to paying more to help the government raise an additional P10 billion in revenue.

Globe Telecom Inc. senior vice president Rodolfo Salalima said the P10 billion in additional taxes the Arroyo administration wanted to generate from the sector could be achieved even under the existing tax regime.

PLDT and its subsidiaries were expecting to shell out more than P31 billion in taxes this year and next, according to PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan.

Pangilinan said the most equitable solution to address the deficit problem would be to increase the value-added tax rate. A franchise tax or any other impost to be slapped on gross earnings would hit even the phone companies that were losing.

Salalima said that apart from PLDT and Globe, the rest of the members of the telecom industry had been in the red.

"Increasing the VAT would make sure that the entire food chain is taxed. It would force us, our suppliers and the rest of the chain to declare the correct income. These guys make money also so they should be taxed," Pangilinan said.

SEC affirms decision on UCC

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) affirmed an earlier decision saying that the holding company that bought into Union Cement Corp. did not have to buy the stakes of the cement firm's minority shareholders.

The decision was made by the SEC corporate finance department and affirmed by the Commission en Banc, an SEC official said. To justify its position, the CFD said the sale was not covered by the tender offer rule since it was not made directly but through a holding company.

However, National Life, a minority shareholder of Union Cement, has filed a motion for reconsideration with the SEC and sought the reversal of the CFD's decision. The SEC in turn has referred the motion to its legal unit, the Office of the General Counsel.

Holding firm Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc. (BCII), the flagship company of the Phinma Group, sold its 21.3-percent share in Union Cement Holdings Corp. (UCHC).

Atlas Cement Corp., a 53-percent subsidiary of BCII, also approved the sale of its 29.69-percent stake in Union Cement early this year.

The total transaction was valued at $214 million, involving $89 million for the direct holdings of BCII and $125 million for Atlas' shareholdings.

The shares were sold to Cemco Holdings Inc., a local partner of BCII.

UCHC is one of the major shareholders of Union Cement Corp., one of the leading cement companies in the country.

"Our exit from UCC is a constructive decision," an official of BCII had said. The company's board said in a statement that "it considered the price fair and attractive" and that it was able to find parties that have the necessary combination of technology, market reach, supply reach and capital resources to make the cement company globally competitive and to maintain its leadership locally.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

OUTSTANDING RETAILER

Bayo, one of the country's leading fashion retailers, recently won the Outstanding Filipino Retailers in the medium-scale fashion category award given by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry. Accepting the award from PRA chair Manuel Siggaoat is Bayo vice president Diana Lynn Agustin (third from left). With them are (from left) PRA president Bienvenido V. Tantoco III, Trade Assistant Secretary J. Norman Hocson, Bayo's Corazon Bitong and Barbara Villas of Rusty Lopez, a finalist.

BIR urged to tap LTO's help in tax collection campaign

THE LAND Transportation Office can help the Bureau of Internal Revenue raise as much as P88 billion in additional revenue yearly, according to Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves.

He said in a statement that the LTO could require the submission of proofs of tax payments by vehicle owners before approving applications for vehicle registration.

"If there is just close coordination between the LTO and the BIR, the potential additional income tax from individuals can reach as much as P88 billion," Teves noted. He, however, did not elaborate how the figure was arrived at.

Teves said almost 3.2 million vehicles were registered with LTO in 2003, while only about 690,000 families filed their income tax returns in the same year.

"An individual who does not pay an income tax cannot possibly afford to buy or own a car," he said.

"There is no car, even second-hand, that can be bought for less than P200,000, which is the minimum taxable income that should pay P37,000 in personal income tax," explained Teves.

He said the government must find ways to enhance tax collection to avoid introducing new taxes.

"The executive branch must also ensure that existing tax laws are efficiently and effectively implemented to optimize its revenue collections," Teves noted.

Of the eight revenue measures proposed by the Arroyo administration to raise an additional P80 billion in revenue yearly, only the adjustment in the excise taxes on beer and tobacco might be approved before the end of this year.

Clarissa S. Batino

Tighter disclosure rules pushed

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange (PSE) market integrity board is proposing that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) tighten disclosure rules as an additional safeguard for the investing public.

The MIB, chaired by retired Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Jose Vitug, was recently put to the test to review a probe done by the PSE's policing unit on Metro Pacific Corp. for alleged insider trading.

Some brokers had alleged insider trading for failure on the part of First Pacific Co. to disclose its plan to sell a 5-percent stake in subsidiary MPC.

The MIB recently cleared MPC and FPC of insider trading. It ruled, however, that this particular case of alleged insider trading could not be divorced from the disclosure rules under the Securities Regulation Code. Citing the SRC, the MIB said that "what the SRC requires to be disclosed is change in ownership, not a planned or intended change in ownership. The language of the provision would indicate that the obligation to disclose arises after the sale, not before the sale."

Therefore, "FPC (First Pacific Co. Ltd.) is not required by law to disclose its plan to sell MPC's 5-percent outstanding capital stock before effecting the same."

"The fact that no such requirement is prescribed by the law inevitably means that such stockholder can dispose of its shares prior to disclosure without running afoul with our insider trading law," the MIB said in a resolution. The MIB also said that in a pre-sale disclosure, for example, "it is possible for the planned or intended sale not to materialize" and in such case, those who sold at a lower price may suffer damages.

In a post-sale disclosure, "investors who bought prior to the disclosure, as in this case, may suffer damages when the share price goes down after the disclosure of the sale by a substantial or controlling shareholder is made."

MIB noted that the fact that the law "requires that disclosure be made after change of ownership is a clear indication that legislators made a policy choice in favor of post-sale disclosure."

"This board cannot second-guess this policy choice made by Congress," MIB noted, adding that the law did not prohibit a controlling shareholder from making a disclosure ahead of the required 10-day period. The MIB said that FPC "would have been well advised to make an early disclosure so that the matter would not have escalated to this level."

Most importantly, the MIB noted that "the 10-day period is a minimum requirement to protect the investing public." There "is nothing to prohibit a rule prescribing a much shorter disclosure period if, in the judgment of both the SEC and the PSE, an earlier disclosure will further protect the investing public."

The current PSE rules have a shorter period but it covers only directors and officers and not controlling shareholders like FPC. The MIB recommended to the SEC that it shorten the 10-day period.

ANG TAN GOLF CLUB & SHARES, INC.
SEC Licensed Golf & Club Shares Brokers No. 10573
BUYING, SELLING, PLAYING RIGHTS?
connie ang
Trading Mgr/Real Estate Broker
24 HOURS TEL. NOS:
253-0008 • 256-6427
256-3188 • 09175289988
BUYING: WACK-6.5,MLA GOLF-10.5,TAG.GOLF-750,CLUB-360/SELLING:ALABANG B-1.1M,CIMAY-175,CELEB-120,POLO-2250,STA.ELENA B-1.5M,CAPITOL-100

GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of December 20, 2004

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,000,000	1,150,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,200,000
Baguio Country Club	500,000	600,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	60,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	70,000
Camp John Hay	-	180,000
Canlubang	400,000	460,000
Canyon Woods	-	160,000
Capitol Hills	100,000	120,000
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,900,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	140,000
Club Filipino	100,000	120,000
Eagleridge "A"	-	250,000
Eagleridge "B"		300,000
Eagleridge "C"		300,000
Forest Hills "A"		130,000
Forest Hills "B"		200,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	220,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	180,000	200,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	250,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	Please Call	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,500,000	-
Manila Polo	2,100,000	2,250,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	400,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	550,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	350,000
Metroclub "A"	110,000	130,000
Mimosa (Individual)	120,000	150,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	260,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	250,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	-	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	150,000	200,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	350,000
Quezon City Sports Club	140,000	180,000
Rockwell	280,000	300,000
Spa & Lodge	500,000	650,000
Sta. Elena "A"	Please Call	1,300,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,400,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	170,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	430,000
Tagaytay Highlands	780,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	700,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	150,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	-	200,000
Valley Golf	200,000	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,200,000	-

*PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

For more information, please call:
Tel no 840-1761 / Fax 894-3021 / Mobile 0917-8273329
or e-mail at ggashare@mozcom.com
Penthouse Pacific Star Bldg Sen Gil Puyat cor Makati Ave Makati City

CLUB SHARES BY CREDIT CARD !!!
You may now charge your purchase or lease of clubshares using your credit card
Great deals for deferred payment transaction await major accredited cardholders
For inquiries call our hotline 751-GOLF / trunk line 840-1761, or log on to
www.ggaclubshares.com for more details

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 17, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3	3	3	3	20,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	24.5	25	24.5	25	1,500,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	52	51	51.5	1,172,800
China Banking Corp.	585	585	575	575	2,200
Citystate Savings Bank	17	17	17	17	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48	48	48	170,100
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	60,000
International Exch. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	410,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27	26.5	26.5	891,500
Philippine National Bank	23	23.25	23	23	19,400
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	6,300
Security Bank Corp.	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	64,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23.25	23	23.25	5,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Abacus Financial	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	3,000,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	20,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1810	1810	1810	1810	210
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.68	1.68	10,317,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	940	940	935	940	34,490
ISM Communications Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.033	1,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	20,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.48	2.5	2,167,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1335	1335	1305	1305	84,500
Ivantage Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1,170,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	3,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.25	16	16	17,400
Manila Electric Co. B	25.5	25.5	25	25	640,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	2,210,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	12,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	139,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	161,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	1,220,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	28,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.98	2.04	1.98	2.02	1,324,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4	4	4	4	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	32	32	32	32	6,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	160,200
Pancake House Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	35,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57.5	57	57.5	29,200
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	220,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,310,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	7,469,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	330,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	31,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	2,458,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	10,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	16	16	16	16	3,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	22,340,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.22	1,100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.85	3.75	3.8	1,268,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	500,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	50,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.65	4.75	4.65	4.7	1,811,000
F&J Prince Hldgs. B	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	776,300
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Ionics Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	130,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	106,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.14	2.16	4,216,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,400,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	1,636,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	600,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	8,850,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	600,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	800,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	600,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.61	2,900,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.28	1.12	1.14	17,828,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.6	0.6	650,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	90,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	447,500
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	54,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.2	7.2	7	7	4,440,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	90,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	900,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	1,230,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
Empire East Land Inc	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	830,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	14,008,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.17	1,600,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	500,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	9,930,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	34,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	96,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,980,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.34	8,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	14,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.027	0.025	0.026	133,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0046	142,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.61	0.61	0.59	0.6	70,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.66	0.67	0.65	0.65	1,590,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	870,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0036	0.0034	0.0034	140,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	42,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.245	640,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.245	0.27	0.245	0.27	1,470,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	8,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.039	0.041	0.039	0.04	19,800,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.25	400,000

CAP assures . . .

From page B1

was pushing for more investments in the manufacturing and services sectors.

"While we aggressively promote investments in infrastructure to improve the business environment, the manufacturing and services sectors provide the jobs for our workforce and produce the goods for consumption," Purisima said.

In the first 10 months, committed projects in manufacturing and services reached P49 billion or 45 percent higher than the P33.9 billion in the same period of 2003.

IT investments kept a strong showing with P7.45 billion or a 66-percent increase from P4.5 billion last year.

There were 68 projects in IT-enabled businesses that committed to create some 24,300 jobs.

Call centers continued to generate the most investments with a total of P5.9 billion or 79 percent of total IT investments. They also accounted for the most jobs with some 17,200 or 71 percent of the total.

6 oil, gas . . .

From page B1

lion during the first seven years of exploration.

Perez had earlier said that the DOE was also likely to award within the year a service contract to a consortium led by Australian natural gas giant BHP Billiton Petroleum.

Even while BHP Billiton and consortium members Unocal Corp., Amerada Hess and Sandakan Oil already posted a bid to explore two blocks spanning 8,000 kilometers in the deepwater part of the southern Sulu Sea, he said negotiations with the consortium were prolonged due to a January 2004 Supreme Court decision declaring Republic Act No. 7942, or the Philippine Mining Act, unconstitutional.

Under the consortium's proposed work program, the group will initially invest $1.65 million to conduct geophysical studies on the two blocks. Another $32 million will be infused for the drilling of four exploratory wells.

Perez said the Supreme Court's recent decision allowing 100-percent foreign firms to go into the mining business will pave the way for the awarding of more service contracts within the next several weeks.

In fact, the landmark decision has prompted state firm PNOC-Exploration Corp. and Petronas Carigali to proceed with their service contract application for oil and gas exploration over offshore South Mindoro.

Farm sector seen to post 5% growth this year

By Christine A. GAylican

YAP

THE AGRICULTURE sector is expected to post a 5 percent growth this year despite the damages inflicted by the four typhoons that hit the country.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said growth in the past three quarters had to be credited for the expected increase in farm output for the whole year. The sector posted growth of not lower than 6 percent in the first three quarters of the year.

"We were actually looking at a 5.85-percent growth but this will possibly drop to 5.11 percent due to the typhoons," Yap said.

Agriculture production is being closely watched by the country's economists as it makes up about a fifth of the country's total economic output.

The government, according to Yap, can help farmers recover their losses through the immediate distribution of seeds and other farming inputs. This, however, was estimated to cost the government at least P35 million.

GMA Rice Program director Frisco Malabanan said palay harvest this year could reach 14.3 million metric tons. This, however, was lower than the target of 14.5 million metric tons this year.

"There is still a chance to increase our output since early interventions have already been made," Yap said.

Recent developments, he added, could offer agriculturists in the provinces the opportunity to assess their current programs and pursue diversification plans. Agriculturists can help determine the areas where different provinces enjoy competitive edge.

Scientists cited for stance on new farm technology

AGRICULTURE research firm Monsanto recently cited the strong stand taken by the Philippine scientific community in support of the use of modern technologies to improve food production and battle hunger.

Monsanto Philippines government and public affairs director Noel Borlongan said the position of the Filipino scientists "is an assurance that the country is serious in its bid to address the issues of poverty and dwindling farm productivity."

Leading Filipino scientists earlier formed a solid phalanx behind the government's policy adopting agriculture biotechnology as the foundation for its bid to increase the production of staple food crops. The scientists also rapped attempts by foreign groups to "wage a scare campaign among Filipino farmers to prevent them from shifting to biotechnology-processed plant varieties."

Borlongan particularly cited the assurance made by former University of the Philippines president Emil Q. Javier that there was no scientific basis to conclude that genetically modified organisms could harm people and certain plant types.

"GMOs are safe with government agencies undertaking strict screening of these plant varieties before they are commercially produced," Javier said.

Scientists believe that the adoption of modern technology could also reduce the country's dependence on imported food and feeds.

ASUS NOTEBOOK PCs
www.asus.com

▸ Experience Freedom with ASUS

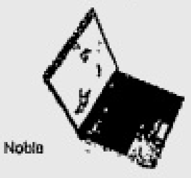
Built-in high quality web camera
A3

- Built-in microphone/camera for instant communication
- Instant-On Music Centre
- Large yet Light
- Performance on the go

Changing the Way You Communicate

• Intel® Centrino™ at 1.5 GHz • 256 MB DDR RAM • 40 GB Hard Disk Drive • 14 " TFT Active LCD Display • Embedded Intel 855 GM VGA • Combo Drive • Intel PRO-Wireless 2100 LAN 802.11 bg • Windows XP (Home Edition) • Smart Card Reader • ASUS Power4 Gear Technology • Built-in Web Cam • Built-in Mic • Audio DJ • 2.5 kgs.

Php 85,000 at **Php 7,083**/month*


S5 Born to be Mobile Noble

• Intel® Centrino™ Dothan 2 MB cache at 1.5 GHz • 256 MB Memory • 40 GB Hard Disk Drive • 12.1 " TFT Active LCD • 3 USB Ports • LAN/Modem • Embedded Intel 855 GME Internal GFX • External Slim DVD/CDR-W Combo • USB 1.44 Floppy Disk Drive • PCMCIA 2.1 • ASUS Power4 Gear Technology • Intel PRO-Wireless 2100 LAN bg • Microsoft Works • Windows XP (Home Edition) • Optical Mouse • Trend PC-Cillin Anti-Virus • 1.3 kgs

Php 92,900 at **Php 7,742** /month*

L4 The Only Notebook You'll Ever Need

• Intel® Pentium® M Dothan 2 MB cache at 1.5 GHz • 256 MB DDR 333 • 40 GB Hard Disk Drive • 15" TFT Active LCD • ATI RS 3000 Chipset • 4 USB Ports • LAN/Modem • Intel PRO- Wireless LAN 2200 • CD/DVD/CD-RW/Combo Drive • PCMCIA 2.1 • TV-Out • 2 IEEE Firewire Port • ATI 64 MB Radeon • Audio DJ • Microsoft Works • Trend PC-Cillin Anti-Virus • Carrying Case • Optical Mouse • Windows XP (Home Edition)

Php 89,900 at **Php 7,492** /month*

A2 DVD-RW Multimedia on the Road

• Intel® Pentium®4 at 2.8 GHz • 256 MB DDR RAM Memory • 15 " TFT Active LCD • 60 GB Hard Disk Drive • ATI Radeon 9600 64 MB DDR Video Memory • USB Floppy Disk Drive • Built-in DVD-RW Drive • Built-in Subwoofer • 3-in-1 Card Reader • Windows XP (Home Edition) • Audio DJ • Carrying Case • Trend PC-Cillin Anti-Virus • Optical Mouse

Php 99,900 at **Php 8,325** /month*

0% interest on any credit cards in 12 months*
*Subject to bank and store approval

ASUS SERVICE CENTERS:
Manila: ASUS WORLD
Cyberzone, 3rd Floor
SM Megamall, Bldg. B
(02) 638 2955

Banbros Commercial, Inc.
www.banbros.ph
(02) 724 9908 loc. 1404 /1408
bcitech@banbros.ph

Cebu: (032) 416 8733 / 37
sales@banbroscebu.com

POWER GEAR 4+ TREND MICRO

COMPLINK (02) 920.9140 to 41 TCA (02) 637.1200 SILICON VALLEY (02) 371.5611 to 19 VILLMAN COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC. (02) 892.2222
THINKING TOOLS (032) 254.2227 X-COMP (032) 262.5155 to 57 WIRED SYSTEMS (032) 255.5282 CONCEPT ILOILO (034) 337.6874
For selected models only:
Electroworld 813 6154 | Columbia Computers 635.9087 | NTComputer Mart 633.4690 | Times Computer 733 1142 to 43 | Accent Micro 426-9829 | Compex 711.0288
BCG Computers Bacolod (034) 434 2532 to 39 | Microstation 637.1473 | Starapple 611.1421 to 25 | PC Live 634 2438 | Asianic 893 0408 | PC Corner Gilmore 723 2837

HYUNDAI
RUSH for the SLASH
A LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

Rush for the super rate-slash this Christmas! Drive home a Sonata, Coupe or XG at low interest rates through BPI Installment Plans. Plus, get to own a ***FREE HYUNDAI Home Theater Showcase**** when you avail of this special installment schemes. **Promo runs from November 25 - December 31, 2004.**

FREE HYUNDAI Home Theater Showcase*

HYUNDAI Executive Series Models	Coupe 2.0 M/T	Sonata 2.0 GLS A/T	XG 2.5 GLS A/T
Suggested Retail Price	P 960,000	P 997,000	P 1,600,000
Lowest Down payment at 15%	P 144,000	P 149,550	P 240,000
Lowest Monthly Installment at 50% down payment fo 72 months	P 10,651	P 11,061	P 17,751

Special Installment Rates of 6.98% for 12 Months at a minimum of 15% down payment for all Hyundai Executive Series Models !

It's the easiest way to get your dream car this Holiday Season!

HYUNDAI Genuine Parts

* HOME THEATER SHOWCASE includes HYUNDAI 73 66 cms Color TV (HY-29TM5) and NEXPHIL DVD Player (NDR-400) with 6 speakers
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5920 Series of 2004

EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF HYUNDAI
HYUNDAI ASIA RESOURCES, INC.
www.myhyundai.com.ph

HYUNDAI ALABANG - Tel: (02) 800 -1771, (02) 800-7344 / (02) 802-3574 / (02) 802-3653 / Mobile: (0917) 327-8088 • HYUNDAI COMMONWEALTH - Tel. Nos. 951-2201 to 10 • HYUNDAI E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE. - Tel: (02) 727- 6394, (02) 413-1848 (02) 251-0018, (02) 253-1908 • HYUNDAI EDSA - Tel: (02) 882-2433 / (02) 882-2432 • HYUNDAI MAKATI - Tel: (02) 830-0013 to 17 Telefax: (02) 830-0023 • HYUNDAI ORTIGAS - Tel: (02) 723-9101 to 07 • HYUNDAI QUEZON AVENUE - Tel: (02) 374-3911 / (02) 411-2720 • HYUNDAI BACOLOD - Tel. Nos. (034) 433-3510 / (034) 434-8051 to 52 / (034) 433-2907 Fax: (034) 435-0268 • HYUNDAI CABANATUAN - Tel. Nos. (044) 464-2878, Fax: (044) 600-1657 • HYUNDAI CAGAYAN DE ORO - Tel: (088) 855-4406 to 07 • HYUNDAI CEBU - Tel: (032) 346-2724, (032) 345-4146 / (032) 345-0324 to 26 • HYUNDAI DAVAO - Tel: (082) 235-2955 / Telefax: (082) 305-0000 • HYUNDAI ILOILO - Tel. (033) 320-7020, (033) 508-8878 / Telefax: (033) 320-4188 • HYUNDAI LA UNION - Tel: (072) 712-8887 to 88 • HYUNDAI LAGUNA - Tel: (049) 411-5650 / (02) 520-8211, (02) 520-8250 • HYUNDAI PAMPANGA - Tel: (045) 961-1184, (045) 961-3977,(045) 861-8888,(045) 888-3333

HYUNDAI
ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU

Citibank Preferred Brands Promotion

Canon
FUJITSU
invent
Program

CITIBANK'S senior officers kicked off the Citibank Preferred Brands promotion. From left, Marketing Director Cecille Fonacier, Cards Business Director Michellina Triwardhany, Country Business Manager Nina Aguas and Vice President Jenny Lacerna.

The rewards of being a Citibank cardholder

Register now and qualify for the next draw on Dec. 27

YOU can get one or you can get all 10 prizes in the Citibank Preferred Brands Promotion.

After being named Asia's Most Preferred Bank, Citibank now gives back to its loyal cardholders (and future cardholders) with exciting prizes of world-famous brands.

Want to have your dream Mercedes-Benz or the best and hottest electronic gadgets in the market?

To qualify for the raffle promotion, cardholders must text the word "CITI" and the last 10 digits of their credit card and send it to 2366. A text message confirming the receipt of their registration will be sent immediately.

There are many ways to earn raffle entries—from shopping with their card, to availing of a cash advance, to charging purchases to PayLite, to enrolling accounts in Citibank 1Bill, to applying for supplementary cards and even transacting online. New and approved applicants also earn entries depending on their card type. Silver cardholders get three, while Gold earns five and Platinum gets as many as eight.

And the prizes to watch out for? Check them out.

Who wouldn't want to drive a sleek 4-door Mercedes-Benz C180 Kompressor Saloon with a price tag of more than P3 million?

Businessmen who can't leave work in the office would surely find the Fujitsu Lifebook S6220 a necessity. With a 60GB hard disk, 512 MB memory, powered with operating system Microsoft Windows XP Home or Professional edition and 13.3 inches XGA TFT monitor, this one is definitely an irresistible prize to watch out for.

You won't miss your favorite TV show and movies with a 43-inch Sony Projection TV worth almost P100,000! Sit and relax with your own big screen TV with your family and friends.

Shoot your way to the world of photography with the Canon Powershot Pro 1 Digital Camera. You don't have to wait for film processing as you can print your photos with the companion Canon Pixma IP6000D photo printer. The Canon Powershot Pro 1 Digital Camera has an impressive 8 megapixels and 7X optical zoom and 3.2X digital zoom. It also has movie recording, compact flash storage media, and USB connection.

The Apple iPod allows music lovers to bring their tunes wherever they go, enjoying crisp sound quality through cutting edge technology only Apple can bring. Worth P30,000, the Apple iPod with a 40G memory and Dock is the fourth generation of the best selling MP3 player in history.

Other prizes include a Samsung E800 mobile phone, a Panasonic Home Theater SC-HT-900, a Hewlett Packard iPAQ 3715, P100,000 worth of Shell fuel cards and trips for two to Hong Kong via Cathay Pacific.

On the next draw on Dec. 27, a cardholder may win any one of these exciting prizes. Cardholders have until January 31 to earn raffle entries. And on March 3, 2005, one winner will take home all 10 prizes!

For more details on the promotion log on to www.citibank.com.ph.,

Citibank is Asia's Preferred Bank

FOR OVER 100 years, Citibank has been in service in the Philippines. It is considered the country's largest foreign bank. Recently, it was voted the Most Preferred Bank—the best international brand in the bank/insurance/investment service category—in the first annual Asia's Top 1,000 Brand Listing.

Global market research Synovate, organizers of Superbrands Asia, Asian Media, conducted a proprietary survey of Asia's most preferred brands with 7,500 individual consumers aged 15-64, across eight Asian markets, including 1,000 in mainland China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand, and 500 consumers in the Philippines.

Interviewees were asked to name the best international brand across nine major product and service categories; with "best" meaning the brand that is most trusted by the consumers or the one they consider as having the best reputation in the category. Categories included financial services, alcohol, automotive, consumer electronics, luxury goods, services, personal quality goods, other personal products and consumer goods.

The results were weighted according to the population in each market, providing a representative cross-section of society. Citibank ranked first in the bank/insurance/investment service category and 27th among the 1,000 Asian most preferred brands.

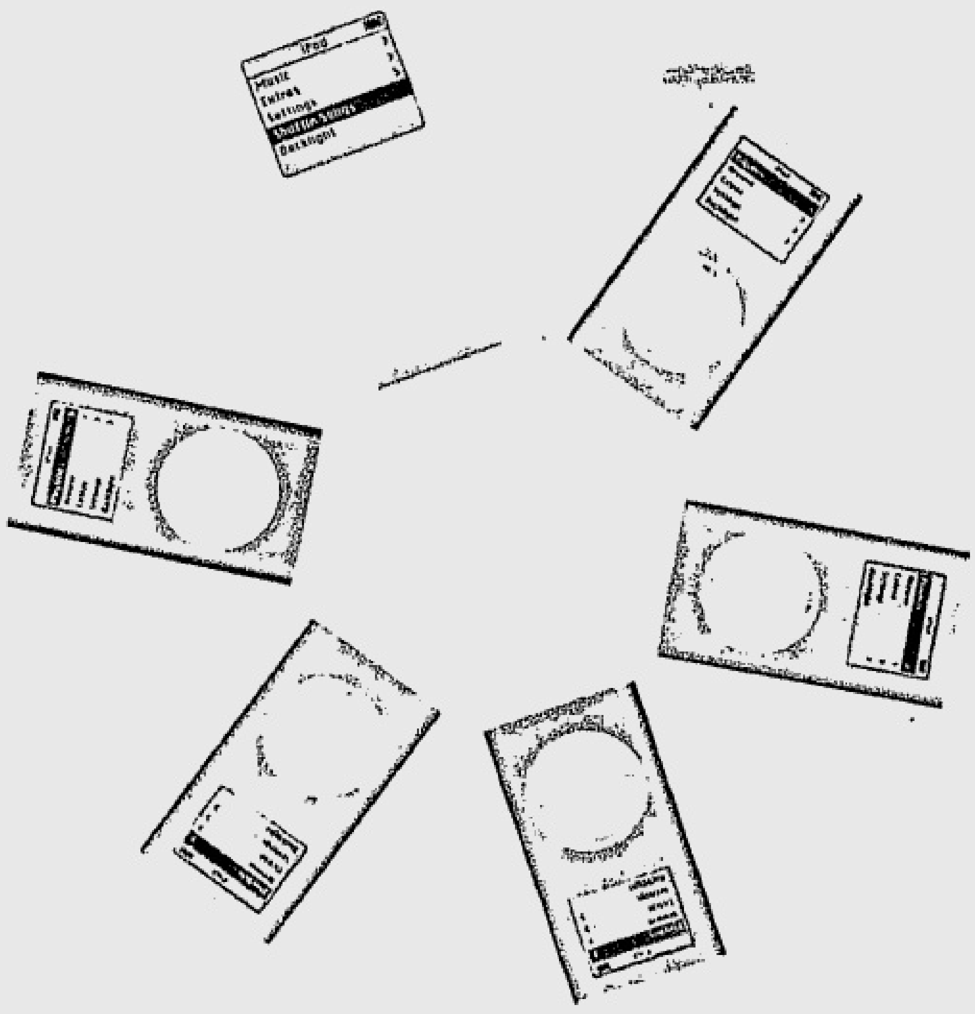
Nina Aguas, Citibank Philippines' Country Business Manager for Global Consumer Group said: "We are honored to be voted as Asia's most preferred bank. This recognition encourages us to continue to innovate and provide world-class products and banking services to our many clients."

In Consumer Banking, Citibank offers a range of credit card products including co-branded cards with industry leaders and premier banking services such as CitiGold Wealth Management and Citibanking.

Citibank is a trusted brand in the market. It is because of its winning combination of talented and dedicated people, a slew of innovative products, impeccable services and an overwhelming drive to be the best. Plus knowing their market to heart.

These qualities have helped earn Citibank the enviable distinction of being the industry innovator in card products and services.

I'm dreaming of a white (or shiny silver, gold, green, pink or blue) Christmas...



With a winning combination of storage and portability, an intuitive user interface, and seamless integration with iTunes for Mac and Windows, iPod and iPod mini offer the ultimate in portable digital music players.

Enjoy up to 2 years' peace of mind with hardware coverage plus technical support via phone, email or web with the AppleCare Protection Plan for your iPod.

Suggested Retail Price:
iPod 20GB PhP 18,780 / 40GB PhP 25,610
iPod mini PhP 15,740
AppleCare Protection Plan PhP 3,500

Authorized Resellers:
Manila: Aberson Avant - Acenet - Ambassador- Apple Center - Asiank - Astroplus - Astrovision* - AV Surfer - Best Mobile - Bose* - Columbia* - Comcentre - Complink-Dataview - Digital Walker* - Electronics Boutique - E-Hub - Electroworld - Games & Gadgets - Globotel - Infonet - LMK - Microstation, Mobile 1 - Nike Forum - Nike Women - NT Computer - O Music Video - Odyssey* - palmOne PodCentral - PC Express - PC Quarter - PC Supplies - PC Worx - Senco Link - Silicon Valley* - The Outlet Store - Tridel Computer - True Value* - Villman - Wellcom* - Ynzal - 5th Avenue*
Northern Luzon: Baguio - Exponent Enterprises - UNICOM - Dagupan - WOW! Mobile and Gadgets
Visayas: Cebu - U Games - Audionet - AV Surfer - Sirtitz - CBX Corporation - Electroworld - JUNREX - Lifestyle and Fine Living - Ng Khai Service Center - Silicon Valley - Thinking Tools, Inc. - Bacolod - BCG Enterprises - Datalink Technologies, Inc. Ilo-Ilo: Concept Computer - Delta Merchandising
Mindanao Cagayan De Oro Quality Appliance Center - Unipace Davao - Central Warehouse Club - Chimes - Columbia Computer - Digital Interface - Electroworld - Metro Plaza - RJ Homes - Silicon Valley - Thinking Tools - General Santos - Columbia Computer Marbel - On line Computer - Zamboanga - Shoppers' Mart, Inc.

*Selected branches only

Authorized Distributor
MICROWAREHOUSE

Citibank ushers early holiday cheer for 10 lucky cardholders

IN THIS time when almost everyone has to scrimp on their holiday budget, 10 Citibank cardholders received the most exciting gifts just in time for Christmas. The Citibank Preferred Brands promotion gave away P3.6 million in prizes during the first draw early this month.

The winners have their own varied interesting stories much like the prizes given away.

A digital camera served as the winning ticket to a Mercedes Benz C180 Kompressor Saloon for Lizbeth Laura Del Rosario of Quezon City. Interestingly, Lizbeth and husband Rod had just bought a new car. But who can resist a Mercedes?

"I never imagined I would win, and a Mercedes Benz at that," says Lizbeth. She bought a digital camera using her Citibank Gold MasterCard at Avid, which as a Citibank partner merchant for the promotion automatically doubled her raffle entries.

Lizbeth enjoys having a Citibank card. She said: "Citibank credit cards are accepted everywhere and I like that a lot. Plus, Citibank offers a generous credit limit."

Surprisingly, the prizes were fitted into the winners. Citibank Gold Visa cardholder and businessman Napoleon Ong won a Fujitsu Lifebook S6220 worth P130,000.

Reynaldo Cruz, a Citibank Gold Visa holder, is a businessman who also enjoys driving. So the Shell fuel cards amounting to P100,000 he won would give him more reasons to drive his V6 Thunderbird. "I'm happy to win something that's so practical in value."

A Sony 43-inch Projection TV would not only delight kids but movie buffs as well. Citibank Gold MasterCard cardholder and businesswoman Melorie Militante will surely have a grand time watching her favorite movies.

"My three children will definitely love it as they can watch their favorite programs and play their video games. All I can say is thank you Citibank," says Melorie.

Another businesswoman who often uses her Citibank Gold MasterCard won a Canon Powershot Pro1 Digital Camera with Canon Pixma IP6000D Photo Printer. Said Elizabeth Yuchioco: "This is a wonderful prize! Now I can conveniently take pictures of my kids and print the photos at my convenience."

As for winning against many odds, Timothy Lee Ng is a prime example - he only needed one raffle entry to bag a trip for two to Hong Kong via Cathay Pacific. The lucky winner uses a Citibank Classic Visa card.

"This is my first time to win in a raffle so it's unexpected but very welcome," says Timothy who intends to bring his wife with him. "I'm glad that my first overseas trip will come free and courtesy of my favorite credit card."

His Citibank Gold MasterCard earned businessman Charles Chua a Panasonic Home Theater System.

"As soon as I heard I won, I walked around the house trying to find a place for it. I've already allocated a space and I can't wait to install it in my room," he said.

Frederick Morales now has a gift for his son after he won an Apple iPod 40G with dock and Apple Care protection plan.

"I'll give this to my son as a Christmas present. He likes listening to music so it's perfect for him," he says. Morales is a banker who has a Citibank Classic MasterCard.

Shell-Citibank MasterCard cardholder Gerardo Castillo won a Hewlett-Packard iPAQ 3715 pocket PC worth P31,000 and says he's "very delighted" to bring home such an impressive gadget. He says he could either use it or give it to his daughter as a Christmas present.

Businessman and Citibank Classic Visa cardholder Hector Marquez can finally upgrade his old phone after winning a Samsung E800 mobile phone.

Winners all and satisfied Citibank cardholders, they simply can't get enough of Citibank with its exciting promotions and generous Rewards Program. The fact that Citibank is also one of the widely accepted credit cards in most establishments makes it even more appealing.

WINNERS ALL - Citibank cardholders Melorie Militante, Reynaldo Cruz, Lizbeth Laura Del Rosario, Elizabeth Yuchioco and Napoleon Ong bagged major prizes during the first draw of the Citibank Preferred Brands Promotion.

MORE CITIBANK WINNERS
Charles Chua, Frederick Morales and Timothy Lee Ng

GERARDO Castillo, Jr. and Hector Marquez

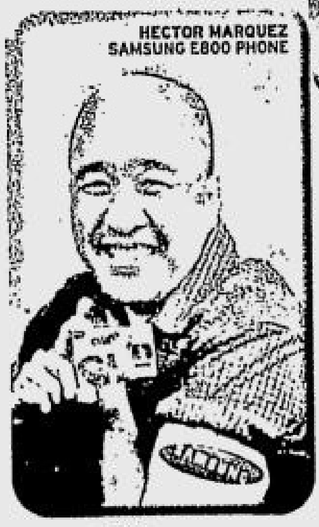
Congratulations

to the brand new owners of these preferred brands!

MELORIE MAIDA MILITANTE
43 INCH SONY PROJECTION TV
KP-FX432M91
SONY.

Mercedes-Benz
citibank
LIZBETH LAURA C. DEL ROSARIO
MERCEDES-BENZ C180 KOMPRESSOR SALOON

CHARLES T. CHUA
PANASONIC HOME THEATER
SC-HT-900
Panasonic


HECTOR MARQUEZ
SAMSUNG E800 PHONE

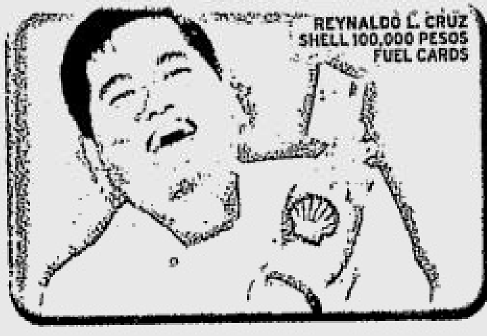
NAPOLEON K. ONG
FUJITSU LIFEBOOK S6220
FUJITSU

FREDERICK B. MORALES
APPLE IPOD 40G WITH DOCK
& APPLE CARE
iPod

ELIZABETH J. YUCHIOCO
CANON POWERSHOT PRO1
DIGITAL CAMERA AND
CANON PIXMA IP6000D
PHOTO PRINTER
Canon

TIMOTHY LEE NG
TRIPS FOR 2 (ECONOMY) TO HK
CATHAY PACIFIC

GERARDO CASTILLO JR.
HP IPAQ 3715
POCKET PC


REYNALDO L. CRUZ
SHELL 100,000 PESOS
FUEL CARDS

You too could own this entire showcase of preferred brands.

Just keep on using your Citibank Credit Card and get a raffle entry for every P1,000 in single receipt until January 31, 2005.

Hurry register now, the next 10 prizes are up for grabs on December 27, 2004.

To register, **text CITI<space><LAST 10 DIGITS OF YOUR CITIBANK CREDIT CARD>** and send to **2366.**

2nd Draw - Dec. 27, 2004 (One winner of each of the 10 prizes)
Grand Draw - Mar. 3, 2005 (One winner of all 10 prizes)

For details, call 995-9999 or visit www.citibank.com.ph

citibank

Share a Load this Christmas, win loads of G-Cash from Globe

CHRISTMAS is a time for sharing - of gifts, heartfelt greetings, or even a simple thing as cellphone reloads. This holiday season, Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers can celebrate that Christmas spirit with the Share-a-load promo. Globe's revolutionary Share-a-Load service now gives subscribers a chance to win G-Cash simply by sharing load with loved ones or friends.

G-Cash is a breakthrough service that transforms a Globe or Touch Mobile subscriber's cellphone into a mobile wallet, allowing subscribers to send and receive cash values, send remittances, and pay for purchases simply through a text message. The Share-a-Load service, on the other hand, allows subscribers to transfer prepaid load from one mobile phone user to another.

From Dec. 9, to Jan. 5, Globe and Touch Mobile postpaid or prepaid subscribers can register in the Share-A-Load Christmas promo for free. Simply text REG SALXMAS and send to 2854. You can then spread holiday cheer by sharing load with other Globe or Touch Mobile prepaid subscribers. Every time you send load to friends and loved ones, you get a chance to win up to 150 G-Cash daily or as much as 10,000 G-Cash in the grand raffle draw.

There are two ways to win: on each day of the promo period, every 10th subscriber who is registered to the promo and who sends at least P25 load via Share-a-Load instantly wins 50 G-Cash. You can win up to three times a day for a total of 150 G-Cash. Also, every registered user who sends any amount of load through Share-a-Load during the promo period is entitled to win 10,000 G-Cash in the grand raffle. 50 lucky winners will be drawn on Jan. 7. The G-Cash credits you win can be used to pay for purchases at selected stores like Mercury Drug, National Bookstore, Metro Gaisano, Ortigas Home Depot, Shakey's, and Burger King; movie tickets at Ayala SureSeats cinemas; food deliveries from Jollibee (8-7000) Shakey's (533-8000), Max's Restaurant (7-9000); and even to send baon (in the form of G-Cash) to your loved ones. They can also easily be converted into actual cash.

To transfer credits through Share-a-Load, simply text <Load amount> and send to 2+ the 10-digit mobile phone number of the person to whom you wish to send load. First-time users of the Share-a-Load service will first have to register by typing REG <a 4-character alphanumeric PIN> <your mother's maiden name> and sending this message to 2916. You will use your PIN in subsequent transactions using the Share-a-Load service. The next time you want to transfer load to a friend, simply text <Load amount> <PIN> and send this to 2+ your friend's 10-digit mobile phone number.

If you've run out of load and want to ask for load from a friend, you can use Ask-a-Load, another innovation from Globe Handyphone. Just text <Load amount> and send to 26 + your friend's 10-digit mobile phone number. Your friend can conveniently accept your request by replying with "YES" (for first-time Share-a-Load users) or with their existing Share-a-Load pin. Both users will receive text advisories confirming the transfer of credits. Both prepaid and postpaid subscribers can send load through Share-a-Load and Ask-a-Load.

The more you use the Share-a-Load service, the more chances you have of winning lots of G-Cash. Share-a-Load now and have a merry Christmas with Globe!

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP DONATES TO TYPHOON VICTIMS

Jollibee Foods Corp, which is composed of Jollibee, Chowking, Greenwich and Delifrance, donated on Dec. 3, P10 million to the typhoon victims. JFC chief finance officer Ysmael Baysa (2nd from left) turns over the donation to DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman (3rd from left). Looking on are lawyer Rey Montoya, JFC Corp counsel (left), and Tim Guiza, executive director of Jollibee Foundation.

TERMINAL TOUR PROMO

Nutri-licious Foods Corporation (NFC), recently embarked on a marketing blitz for its product Mola Energy Drink held at public utility vehicle terminals to target the market of PUV drivers. Drivers need optimum energy while on the road especially for long distance trip, and Mola Energy Drink helps in keeping them alert and energized on the job 24/7. The terminal tour promo included product sampling, giveaways, fun games, and other activities geared to attract interest towards Mola. Mola brand manager Arlene Llagas is shown in photo distributing free Mola Energy Drink gift packs to PUV drivers at the Victory Liner terminal.

1ST JOINT FOREIGN CHAMBERS' NETWORKING NIGHT
Public Private Partnerships

AMCHAM PARTICIPATES IN 1ST JOINT FOREIGN CHAMBERS NETWORKING NIGHT

The 1st Join Foreign Chamber Networking Night was held last Oct. 21, at the Ballroom of the New World Renaissance Hotel. The event was well attended by the different Foreign Chambers Heads, Member and Government officials. Overall total of attendees is 344. DTI Secretary, Cesar Purisima gave the opening remarks. Among the government officials who attended the event are Director Lilia de Lima, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Chair Virgilio Peña, and Mayor Jejomar Binay. It was indeed a successful event and most of the people who attended it suggested to do it quarterly. In the picture are: from left Richard Barclay (AnZCham), Ryukichi Kawaguchi (JCCP), Shameem Qurashi (Pamuri), Sec. Cezar Purisima (DTI), Emilio Vicens (ECCP), Ermita (DOTC), Il Kyoung Park (KCCP), Juanita Amatong (DOF), Rick Santos (CB Richard Ellis and AmCham president), Stewart Hall (CanCham).

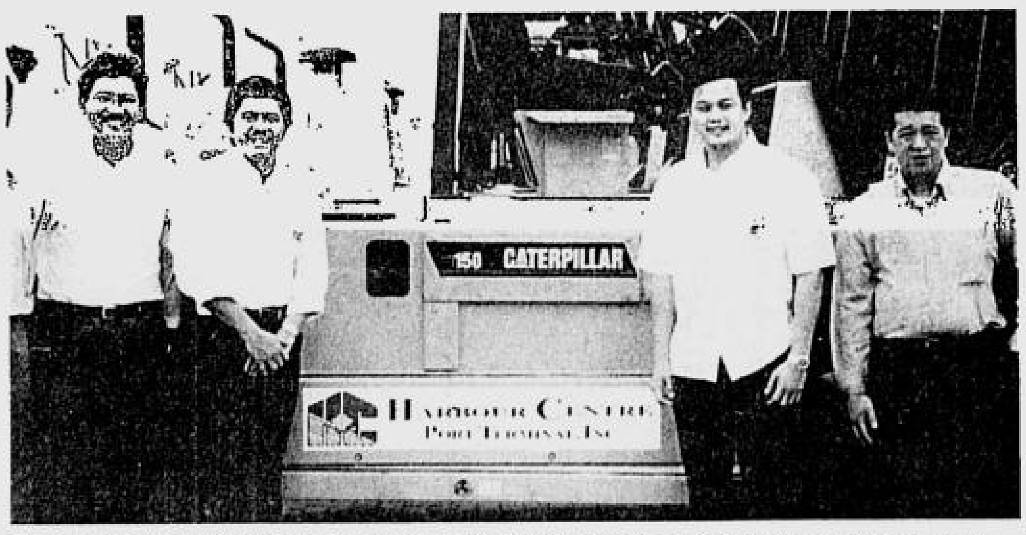
Footworx-Sta. Lucia is overall karatedo champ

FOOTWORX-Sta. Lucia regained its overall championship in the karatedo event of the 2nd Philippine ITF Martial Arts Tournament held at the Grand Ballroom, Westin Philippine Plaza last week. Footworx-Sta. Lucia was overall champion of the maiden tournament held in May this year.

A member-dojo of the Karate Development for Arts and Sports (KDA), Footworx-Sta. Lucia was powered by double gold winner Kenneth V. Cuden (under 6 years old, mixed kata and kumite); John Angelo Gerard D.O. Calbario (7-8 years old, gold, male kumite and bronze, male kata), Rachelle V. Cuden (13-14 years old, gold, female kumite); Carenlia de Castro (13-14 years old, gold, female kata); Reden V. Cuden (9-10 years old, silver, male kata); Aliza V. Concepcion (13-14 years old, silver, female kata); Cesar Carrion (9-10 years old, silver, male kumite); Pamela Pilapil (7-8 years old, silver, female kumite); Jozel Manalang (7-9 years old, silver, female kata and 9-10 years old, bronze, female kumite); Judy Sharie Tiamson (19 years old and above, bronze, female kata); and Jenn Kiana Louise Cardeño (under 6 years old, bronze, mixed kumite)

The roster of instructors at Footworx-Sta. Lucia includes national karate team coach and KDA chief trainer David Lay, SEAG medalist Walter Gozum; national champion Reiner Ryan de Leon; and blackbelts Stephen Deynata; Alvin Carbonel and Richard Carbonel. Footworx-Sta. Lucia is located at the 3rd level of the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal.

A project of Westin Philippine Plaza and the Phil. International Taekwondo Federation, the 2nd Philippine ITF Tournament (karatedo category) was participated in by KDA (with more than 20 clubs in Metro Manila), Pro-Karatedo Training System, Claret Goju ryu Karatedo, Cerilla Karatedo Foundation, Defenders Karatedo Aikido Martial Arts Association, and Shotokan Karatedo System.


150 CATERPILLAR
Harbour Centre Port Terminal, Inc.

P50-MILLION WORTH OF EQUIPMENT FOR HARBOUR CENTRE PORT

A total of P50-million worth of port equipment was bought by Harbour Centre Port Terminal, the newest and most modern port terminal in the country, as part of its continuing commitment to deliver world-class port terminal services to its clients. The newly-bought equipment included the latest, brand-new forklifts to complement the port's superior facilities, which include a world-class working apron measuring 865 meters in length by 45 meters in width, a 15-hectare back up area where cargoes up to 6 TEUs high can be properly stacked, and a truck holding area that can fit in 500 trucks at a time. Present during the turn-over of the brand-new equipment were (from left) Monark officials Ed Eusebio, VP-machine sales and Edmidio Ramos, managing director; with Harbour Centre Port officials Michael Romero, chief executive officer, and Edwin Jeremillio, VP-administration.

EWB offers financial lifeline with Salary Loan Plus

ECONOMIC woes make it difficult for many to make both ends meet. But thanks to financial services made available by East West Bank, access to financial lifeline is at hand.

Consistent with its desire to give its clients only with the good things, East West Bank offers its loan product loaded with features that do not only provide help in time of need, but also allow for payments under reasonable terms and conditions.

East West Bank Salary Loan Plus is for eligible companies or corporations extended for their permanent and qualified employees. For companies availing of the loan, additional fringe benefits are easily made available to their employees. With the latter availing of the fund from the bank, the companies can now maximize their own funds for other important purposes.

For borrowers themselves, getting a salary loan at East West Bank has never been this easy. EWB Salary Loan Plus guarantees easy access, hassle-free application and prompt processing. What's more, the loan requires absolutely no collaterals.

To apply, borrowers simply fill in an application form then submit it to the human resources department of their companies.

In two days, following the completion of all the requirements and processing time, the loan can be released. And this tops the chart - EWB Salary Loan Plus can be paid in flexible payment terms from 6 to 36 months. Borrowers can pay as low as 1.20 percent per month. Loan repayment is conveniently done via salary deduction in equal amounts.

Borrowers can loan up to three times their salary or an amount up to P300,000 - an opportunity for them to have the means to meet an urgent financial obligation or for an important expense like house improvement, tuition of the children, or even to start a small business.

For borrowers, East West Bank requires minimum qualifications: borrower must be a permanent employee, has tenure of at least one year of continuous employment with the company, and not more than 65 years old or per company's retirement age policy upon maturity of the loan, whichever comes first.

With all the conditions met, the bank grants EWB Salary Loan Plus to the employee, allowing him to enjoy the financial freedom to address his financial concerns.

Alliance Software posts record growth

ALLIANCE Software, a Philippine-based international business software company, announces a record 50 percent growth in revenue YTD (Year-to-Date). Primarily attributed to aggressive advertising efforts, Alliance Software products such as the POS (Point-of-Sale) System were launched in December 2003 and have seen robust sales since then.

Traditionally a software outsourcing partner of Japanese firms, Alliance turned to Campaigns Cebu, a Total Marketing Solutions agency, for marketing communications support for the Philippine launch of their software packages. The resulting ad campaigns were hinged on regular placements in national newspapers, strategic use of color and ad measurements as well as clear consumer insights.

The overwhelmingly positive market response to Campaigns Cebu's successful product and brand campaigns for Alliance have led to a surprisingly sharp increase in demand. Alliance Software president Robert Cheng says, "With Campaigns Cebu's support, Alliance can now intensify its efforts to penetrate deeper into the national market." With Campaigns Cebu's continuing role as its Total Marketing Solutions partner, Alliance Software looks forward to continuing its current growth trend with the upcoming campaign for its IT consultancy service, Alliance Professional Services. Alliance Professional Services or APS is the logical extension of the software firm's onsite servicing policy and is an effort to add additional value for Alliance clients.

Cocoplans offers Medic

COCOPLANS presents its newest product innovation Medic or Medical Emergency Daily Income Coverage. Cocoplans' Medic, unlike other medical plans, specifically addresses the necessities and daily expenses that come with hospitalization. Medic combines the features of a good investment, comprehensive life and accident cover as well as income protection in the event of hospitalization. As an investment, Medic gives a higher return compared to bank savings or time deposits. At the same time, it protects the primary investor with free Life and Accident Insurance. It also has Waiver of Premium and Credit Life that completes the plan holder's investment contribution in the event of total disability or premature death. Medic provides replacement of income in the event of hospital confinement due to sickness For further information about Medic, please contact Cocoplans Customer Service at telephone numbers 892-4956 to 59 or visit www.cocoplans.com.

PSBANK, MASTERCARD PROMO WINNER

Photo shows Robert Perelonia (right), receiving the keys and papers to his brand new 2004 Toyota Corolla Altis 1.8 AT from Metrobank Card Corp president Anne Young (middle) as PS-Bank president Pascual Garcia III (left) looks on. Perelonia won the car in the PSBank Mastercard Charge and Drive promo, a usage based promotion that generates a raffle number every time a specific amount is charged to the credit card. The prpmo ended Oct. 31.

ProductFILES

The Tony Galvez Eyelash Extension

DREAMING of long lashes but tired of applying fake ones, or your usual lengthening mascara? Dream no more with the Tony Galvez Eyelash extension - the very first eyelash extension technique here in Philippine the uses high quality and natural looking lashes to make your eyes the window of your soul.

The Tony Galvez Eyelash Extension enhances, adds beauty and life to your eyes without surgery or operation. Tony Galvez uses strands that are well matched to a person's real lashes so they look natural on anyone who wears them. It comes in black, purple and blue colors. Perfect for those special dates these coming holidays.

These are not fake eyelashes but individuals lashes that are painstakingly grafted one by one for 30 minutes onto the short eyelashes of men and women of Chinese heritage for a natural (but eye-opening) look. The local service is priced lower that if it were done in Hong Kong.

This eyelash extension is another beauty innovation offered by Tony Galvez. For more information on products and services, visit the Tony Galvez Salon at the Tony Galvez Centrum 124-9th Avenue, corner P. Tuazon Blvd., Araneta Center, Cubao, QC. Or call 913-4370/913-3953, email tgalvez117@yahoo.com or log onto www.tonygalvez.com.ph.

REVISED OUTLOOK

Bush predicts steady economy, lower job growth

WASHINGTON—The . administration of President George W. Bush, after being ridiculed by Democrats for an overly optimistic jobs forecast this year, on Friday significantly reduced its forecast for new jobs that will be created in 2005. It slightly boosted its estimate for overall economic growth.

In its new economic outlook, the administration predicted the economy will grow by 3.5 percent next year and will create an additional 2.1 million jobs.

A year ago, the administration was forecasting 3.6 million jobs would be created in 2005 after 2.6 million this year.

Democrats called the forecast for 2004 overly optimistic, an assertion that proved to be accurate. Through November, just 1.3 million jobs were created, half of the administration's forecast.

The economy has struggled to create new jobs during the recovery from the 2001 recession. Businesses have been successful in boosting production with fewer workers.

A problem facing the administration with its 2004 forecast was that it was prepared in late November 2003 as part of the administration's budget preparations but not released until early February when the budget was sent to Congress.

In between, the jobs pictured darkened significantly with a string of weak monthly figures, thus making the administration's forecast look even more optimistic.

Gregory Mankiw, the chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, told reporters the administration had decided to release the 2005 forecast in early December, when it was completed, rather than waiting for two months for it to be possibly overtaken by events.

Mankiw and other administration officials said the early release had nothing to do with speculation that Mankiw is planning on leaving his CEA post.

Other officials said Friday that if Mankiw does decide to leave, a leading candidate under consideration to replace him is Ben Bernanke, currently serving as one of seven members of the Federal Reserve board.

Bernanke has also been mentioned as a top prospect to replace Fed Chair Alan Greenspan, whose term ends in January 2006.

The administration said the overall economy as measured by the gross domestic product will grow by 3.5 percent next year and 3.4 percent in 2006.

A year ago, the administration was forecasting growth at slightly lower rates of 3.4 percent for 2005 and 3.3 percent for 2006.

For the current year, which is almost over, the administration now sees the economy expanding, when measured from the fourth quarter of last year, by 3.9 percent, down from an expectation of 4 percent this time a year ago.

On inflation, the administration predicted that consumer prices will rise by 2 percent next year, down sharply from an expected 3.4 percent increase this year.

Mankiw said the slowdown reflected the fact that energy prices are expected to be lower next year after jumping sharply in 2004.

Mankiw said the administration's forecasts for economic growth, employment and inflation were well within the range of private sector forecasts.

Private analysts generally agreed with that assessment.

"On job growth, they are just slightly more optimistic than I am and they are well within the bounds of possibility," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York. *AP*

United pilot leaders accept 15% pay cuts

CHICAGO—Pilots at United Airlines face a 15-percent pay cut, their second double-digit wage reduction in two years, and will not further resist the company's elimination of traditional pensions under a tentative contract agreement made public Friday.

The pilots' union reluctantly approved the proposed five-year contract late Thursday, hoping to help lift the cash-strapped airline out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2005 after more than two years of restructuring.

The contract sets an important precedent both for ongoing negotiations with other United unions and for rival airlines that also are slashing their labor costs to try to stem big losses.

Harshly concessionary, it reflects the realities of an airline industry crippled by soaring jet fuel costs and discount fare wars that have trimmed the profit from US tickets and sent so-called legacy airlines like United deeper into the red.

While agreeing to steep concessions that would save United $180 million (135.7 million euros) a year—$11 million less than the company's initial demand—the pilots would come away with some additional financial considerations in exchange for not waging a damaging fight to retain defined-benefit pensions.

The company, a unit of Elk Grove Village, Illinois-based UAL Corp., would make higher pension contributions than previously envisioned to the cheaper new defined-contribution pension plan. More notably, it would give the pilots' union $550 million in convertible notes that could then be distributed to the 6,400 pilots and sold in the capital market.

The cash would be intended to soften the blow of losing defined-benefit pensions for a group that would suffer disproportionately when that plan is eliminated. *AP*

A CONTAINER vessel is berthed at the Singapore Keppel terminal container port. Singapore's key non-oil domestic exports rose 16.5 percent in November from a year earlier but were down 9.1 percent on October, the government said Friday, in a further sign the city-state's economy is slowing. AFP

Japan to cut GDP growth forecast for '04

TOKYO—Japan will slash its economic growth forecast in the current fiscal year to March 2005 to 2.1 percent from its earlier estimate of 3.5 percent, reflecting a slowdown in the world's second biggest economy, a report said Saturday.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's Cabinet is set to approve the revised gross domestic product (GDP) forecast on Monday, the Mainichi Shimbun said, quoting government sources.

Apart from slowing economic activity, the downgrade is also due to a recent change in methods of calculating GDP, the daily said, adding Japan expects the economy to grow by 1.6 percent in the next fiscal year starting April 2005.

Japan's economy narrowly avoided recession this year after revised GDP in the July-September quarter grew a meager 0.1 percent following a 0.1-percent contraction in the April-June quarter.

Two consecutive quarters of negative economic growth technically constitute a recession. *AFP*

China aims for top 3 slot in car industry

BEIJING—Despite a less than stellar year in 2004, China aims to become the world's third-largest auto maker by the end of the decade, state media reported Saturday.

The objective is stated in a national blueprint for the auto sector, which aims to make it a pillar industry for the entire economy by 2010, the Xinhua news agency said.

The blueprint foresees the auto sector making up 5 percent of China's overall economy in six years' time, with export value of at least $50 billion, according to Xinhua.

In one example of Chinese carmakers' growing ambitions, the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp. (SAIC) is in talks with England's MG Rover for a partnership that will offer it access to the European market.

SAIC, which has said it wants to become the world's sixth largest carmaker by 2010, is tipped to own 70 percent in the planned venture with MG Rover, the China Business Weekly newspaper said.

But with only two weeks to go before the New Year, China's auto industry is looking back at a rather painful 2004, Xinhua said in a separate report.

"Compared with other nations, China's auto sales were not at all low. Nevertheless, compared with the previous years in China, they were down," said car dealer Du Wen.

Authorities have predicted China's auto production and sales volume will surpass five million units by the end of the year.

While most countries would be ecstatic over such figures, in China they mark a significant drop.

In 2002, the first year after China joined the World Trade Organization, the sales volume of sedans reached 1.2 million, up 50 percent from 2001. *AFP*

Wall St. stocks to hold up

NEW YORK—US stocks should hold firm this week with little economic data or corporate news on tap to move the market going into the Christmas holiday, strategists said.

But nervousness will persist around drugmakers' shares after the hit they took Friday on a barrage of sour product news from sector heavyweights such as Dow component Pfizer Inc., and smaller rivals AstraZeneca and Eli Lilly & Co.

Pfizer's stock initially fell as much as up to 19 percent, before retracing close to half that loss by the end of trading, after it said it was ending cancer-prevention trials of its popular Celebrex arthritis drug.

The 30-stock Dow Jones industrial average rose 1.01 percent during the week.

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index gained 0.52 percent and the Nasdaq Composite Index finished the week up 0.34 percent.

With just two weeks left before closing the books on 2004, the three major indexes are all in the black for the year.

The Dow is up 1.9 percent, the S&P 500 is up 7.4 percent and the Nasdaq is up about 7 percent.

Bitter pill

On what seemed like a Black Friday for drugmakers, Pfizer's warning coincided with news that Lilly would stamp a warning label for some patients who should not take its drug, Strattera, for attention deficit disorder.

Those setbacks were preceded by Anglo-Swedish group AstraZeneca's statement that its lung cancer drug Iressa, already launched in the United States and Japan, had failed to help patients live longer in a major clinical study.

Pharmaceutical stocks aside, equity strategists said that the general tone of the market would otherwise be stable in the absence of any notable market-moving economic data.

"There is confidence that the economy is on a self-sustaining expansion course and I don't think anything is going to happen to upset that expectations. The problem now is only stock-specific," said Michael Metz, chief investment strategist at Oppenheimer & Co.

"For those who thought that the worst was over for the drug industry and we had a good rally this week, they are now having second thoughts," Metz added.

For much of this year's second half, US stocks have been led by swings in oil prices and weakness in the dollar.

Over a barrel

Stanley Nabi, vice chair of Silvercrest Asset Management, said the market expects the price of a barrel of crude to stabilize between the high $30s and the mid-$40s over the next few months.

In November, the US Consumer Price Index rose 0.2 percent and core CPI, excluding volatile food and energy prices, also gained 0.2 percent—matching Wall Street's forecasts in each case. Overall, energy prices in November went up 0.2 percent, after soaring 4.2 percent in October.

This offered some relief to those concerned about inflation after the CPI's jump of 0.6 percent in October.

On Friday, NYMEX January crude rose $2.10 to settle at $46.28 a barrel.

The dollar slipped on Friday, trading at 104.17 yen, down 0.5 percent. The euro was at $1.3311, up 0.5 percent.

Light dusting of data

Snow is forecast for some parts of the US Northeast early next week. But on Wall Street's calendar, the outlook calls for only a light dusting of economic data and earnings reports.

The only economic figures to be announced this week are the November durable goods number, which reflects the demand for big-ticket items like cars, refrigerators, washing machines and other items produced by the manufacturing sector, and weekly jobless claims.

Economists expect November durable goods orders to rise 0.6 percent, compared with a drop of 1.1 percent in October.

The jobless claims for the week ending Dec. 18 are expected to rise to 330,000 from 317,000 last week. Both figures are due on Thursday, Dec. 23.

Investment banks Morgan Stanley and Bear Stearns Cos. Inc. lead a short list of earnings reports due.

Both are likely to have an impact on the market as investors eye their reports for an additional read on the strength of business on Wall Street. *Reuters*

BOSE®

SoundDock™
Digital Music System

Style. Prestige. Superior Audio Performance.

Acknowledged by Time Magazine as one of the coolest personal tech products of 2004*. Simply dock and play to fill the room with vibrant detailed sound that will revolutionize the way you experience your iPod.

- Renowned Bose sound quality from your iPod or iPod mini
- Docking cradle charges your iPod as it plays or even when turned off
- Credit card-sized remote control included for basic functions

Eleksis
MARKETING CORPORATION
customer_service@eleksis.com

BOSE
Better sound through research®

BOSE STORES: SM Megamall: Tel. No: 634-8484 to 85 • SM City North Edsa: Tel. No: 926-8034
Robinson's Place Ermita: Tel. No: 536-2668 • Festival Supermall: Tel. No: 850-3638
Power Plant Mall: Tel No: 898-2048 • Rustan's Makati, 6th flr.: Tel. No: 813-3739 loc 277

PREMIUM DEALERS: Avant Abenson: Tel. No: 758-2316 • Ambasador Appliances**: Tel. No: 633-5224
AstroPlus: Tel. No: 633-4523 • Mobile 1: Tel. No: 8934509 • PalmOne Pod Central: Tel. No: 752-8382

* December 6, 2004 issue of Time Magazine ** Selected Branches Only

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897 8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5200213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071 Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, HERPES, AIDS
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
VAGINAL REPAIR
SKIN DISEASES
COMPLETE LABORATORY
No. 8 Purdue St., Cubao,
Q. C. back of
Stella Maris College
OPEN 8 AM to 6 PM
MON. to SAT.
Tel. 4392706 / 9139474

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

02-3233269 Male Factor

ADAM'S APPLE 3605724

AKHIN THAI MASGE #8347357

ASK JOHN MALE MASSEURS (0921)5364794

H'SOME ATHLETES 8327363

MALE MASSAGE
PINK
374-8480

MALE MASSUER 8535399 DAN

MASSAGE 8545348 WARREN

MR. UNIVERSE SPA
Tel. No. 410-1259

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★
11A Kamias QC 4350978

MSGE M-F 09192714842 ANJO

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

REFLEXOLOGY

BODYLAX 4144488

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

I-spa Ctland 9 Mkt 8160151

REFLEX 09273045599 JOHN

•Wizard Massage 4213197•

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LIGHT 5268216 / 5301315

MISCELLANEOUS

AIRCON SERVICES 09192963311

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAIDS & YAYA 4386920

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

Good Maid Yaya Cook 4214652

Good Maids Yaya Boy 7572089

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8503

PACIFIC: MAIDS, ETC
SINCE 1948 T:7312672

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•DirectMaid Yaya Mid-Wife 9957034

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

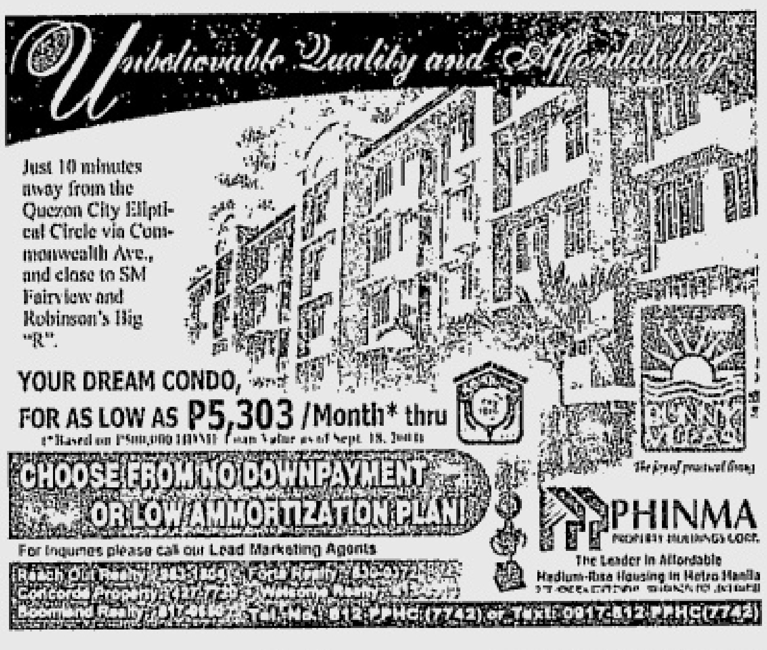
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

SAN JUAN

LA 141m² N. Domingo 3.8M DBO 7259692 7001807 7248287

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE


Unbelievable Quality and Affordability
The joy of practical living
PHINMA
PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORP.
The Leader in Affordable
Medium-Rise Housing in Metro Manila

Just 10 minutes away from the Quezon City Elliptical Circle via Commonwealth Ave., and close to SM Fairview and Robinson's Big "R".

YOUR DREAM CONDO,
FOR AS LOW AS P5,303 /Month* thru
(*Based on P500,000 HDMF Loan Value as of Sept. 18, 2003)

CHOOSE FROM NO DOWNPAYMENT OR LOW AMMORTIZATION PLAN!

For Inquiries please call our Lead Marketing Agents

[illegible]
Tel. No. 812-PPHC (7742) or Text: 0917-812-PPHC (7742)

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

RSG GUEVENTHOMES

BACOOR only 10 mins from Baclaran!
as low as
P4,100/mo*
* Pag-IBIG Housing Loan

as low as P700T
Min. 15% D/P
15% 2nd REM
70% Balance thru In-House convertible to Pag-IBIG Housing Loan
Mandaluyong Sales Ofc.
531-0395 * 531-1384
(0920) RSG HOME
(0920) 910 0000
Toll Free: 1-800-10 RSGHOME
www.guevent.com
other sites available
Cainta, Baguio, QC

COMML/RESDL

MAKATI

COMML/RESDL

MAKATI

(1) Office/Residential Condo Unit for Sale (3.1M)
4th & 5th Flrs. w/ Attic,
U-4/5-3 Sunshine Cond.
9633 Kamagong St., SA Village,
Makati City
Floor area of 111.60 square meters
For Inquiries contact:
Rey Jaucian - 8940012-13
Mobile No. 09193580236/
E-mail: rjaucian@pana.com.ph
Brokers are Welcome!

COMMERCIAL

SAN JUAN

4-STOREY BLDG IDEAL FOR OFC W/WAREHOUSE LOT AREA 523M² FLR AREA BLDG 500M² FLR AREA WRHOUSE 200M² FLR AREA XCLUDE 6CAR DRIVEWAY SAN JUAN P16M 0917-8466242 MIKO

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PIÑAS

FA250 LA246(COR) 7BR 5CR 2ATTIC RM. 2CAR GARAGE MRNING SUN P4MN 6740601

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA Bnew Twnhse /3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

Sacrifice Sale - FATIMA 5322115 0917-8255123

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

PASIG

KAPITOLYO
5br / 5tb Gud as new 11M Neg 746-0237 • 0917-8125791

QUEZON CITY

•#131K-3rd Kamuning•
9210266 9210967 9220547

Fil I QC Cheap 0918-5800132

BULACAN

GROTTO AREA 225T 9390209

LA38.5 FA22 P-IBIG Down 5T M/A 2,378 09217377851 4563409

HOUSE & LOT

BULACAN

Meycauayan 2br 2tb 1cg P1.6M Bnew 0917-8550207

Near Grotto 650T 9372688

CAVITE

CANYON RANCH
HOMES AT HILLTOP
ROLLING TERRAIN
FOR AS LOW AS 6K/MO
CALL OR TEXT 09189337125

LAGUNA

BINAN RFO 400T 5201792

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.1M C5 Nr The Fort
10T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

CONDO NR D FORT 10T/mo. 2-4br Julie 0927-4630047

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

RENT 2 OWN 10T/mo. Ex Terms Rhea 0918-6077899

Rent to Own Nr D'Fort & Mkt CBD 30K DP Move-In Studio 11K/mo. 0918-9384927

RENT2OWN 9T/mo. Condo nr. Mkti 0922-8086855

PASIG

1.6M ORTIGAS AVE. RESORT-TYPE, 1st Class 2-4BR P13T/ mo. or NoDP or 0% Bess • 0917-5234223

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

BRAND NEW PROJECT 4 2STOREY W/ ATTIC 6830677

CUBAO P1.5M Terms 9126976

TEACHER'S VILL QC
Brandnew Mahabagin St
9132701 / 09189356366

LOT

RIZAL

RICHMOND EXEC COMMERCIAL CAINTA 200m² P6T@ 164m² P5T@ Rush 9488240 / 6337371

SAN JUAN

Lopez Jaena Near Wilson P13M 425m² Rush 532-2422

CAVITE

MEADOWOOD EXEC VILL LA 220m² P1.2M neg call MERZ 7785470 / 0917-8409951

MEMORIAL LOT

RUSH SALE Good Discount Columbary Vaults Call 578-2706

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

LA=2T NR TGAYTAY V.COOL P500/S.M. W/TREES 8740601

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

PARAÑAQUE

MARIMAR New 3BR 2TB Grg nr Skyway SM Bic 823-2885

QUEZON CITY

3BR SERRAMONTE VILLAS FILINVEST2 0917-7182116 JUN

BATANGAS

Vacation House
Batangas Seacoast P20,000/mo. Call Adams 0917-85149003 (043)-9312410 email: nona_adams @yahoo.com

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Studio Makati P8,500 Call or Txt Nona 09178514903 • (043) 9312410

MANILA

1br Condo 0917-8463228

QUEZON CITY

Studio Front of Ateneo & Mirnm P9,500/mo. Call Nona Adams 09178514903

APARTMENT

MAKATI

STUDIO Size 6T T870-65-41

MANILA

2BR 1CR P7T ☎ 415-0311

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO nr Mercury LRT4210747

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

Cubao fabshp 500m² 7257342

ROOM & BOARD

1BR w/AC TB Mkt 8992148

Chin Gen Area 7836781

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

P2001 Sucat Pque 8275345

Rm w/ prkng kit/tb fac nr UP QC Hall Claret Call Len/Lydia Tel. 9218084 to 85

BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 7257342

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

49SQM+12SQM PRKNG SPACE 2BR Call 5225997 / 0917-8142515 Babes Nazareno

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

BROKERS CEP 4382966

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

'99 MB100 P300T 360-9523

BMW316i Nov'01 Aqcrd Blue well kept C2 apprec 1.150M 0917-8111575/9270207

FORD

02 Ford EXP 0918-5060132

HONDA

00 Accord VTi a/t 570T 9254566

02 Civic VTi 565T a/t 9254566

HYUNDAI

'96 GRACE P195T 360-9523

'98 H100 P230T 360-9523

KIA

'98 BESTA P240T 360-9523

MERCEDES

'97 E230 Black Elegance Imported, CASA Maintained with Sunroof, 35Tkm. See to appreciate Call 0920-9040510

MITSUBISHI

Adv S.Sport M/T 575T 4267915

NISSAN

01 Exalta DS m/t 365T 4361294

Cefiro A/T 340T neg 4267915

TOYOTA

00 Revo SR a/t 475T 9254566

Brand New RAV4 2004 4x2 5Spd Silver P950T DBO Call 0917-4115309 Looking for 1st Owner

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Terrano Safari Rvr Serena Delica Space Gear Estima Vanette Largo Elf Canter T-in 9120647 / 09178342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly. Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

25T New Compl St Impld 7767507

BUY/SELL

College Plans 0917-7939632

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Parlor/Sauna Eqpt 09178114261

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Xerox Machine 0917-8114261

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL
Introduced K9 Training in the Phil. Trains w/K9 Psychology & w/Full Guarantee Tel. 721-3736

• ROTT PUPS 0919-2758677

WANTED TO BUY

'PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE'
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-6940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

Republic of the Philippines
Province of La Union
Municipality of Bacnotan
Office of the Mayor
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipality of Bacnotan, La Union through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors, registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Planning and Design of Bacnotan Public Market and Construction of Two (2) Storey Commercial Building (Phase 1)
Location : Bacnotan, La Union
Brief of Description : Planning and Design of the whole lot area of 10,349.30 sq.m. which includes proposed Wet and Dry Market Building, Commercial Building, Parking Areas and Access Roads and Construction of Two (2) Storey Commercial Building (Phase 1)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P 28,000,000.00 (Phase 1)
Source of Fund : Loan from Philippine National Bank
Contract Duration : 300 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Foms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance, Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRP).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	January 11, 2005
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	January 12-14, 2005
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	January 25, 2005
4.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	February 2, 2005
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	February 3, 2005
6.	Pre-Bid Conference	February 16, 2005
7.	Receipt of Opening of Bids	February 28, 2005

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Office of the BAC Secretariat, Bacnotan, La Union, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the Municipality of Bacnotan, La Union Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P10,000.00 to the Municipality of Bacnotan, La Union Cashier.

The Municipality of Bacnotan, La Union assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

CONTACT PERSON:

ERICA L. DE CASTRO
Bacnotan, La Union
09274270237

Approved by:
(Sgd.) ENGR. ZALDY D. ALMOITE
BAC Chairman
09164764952

(PDI – December 20 & 28, 2004)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
Hi-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

MISCELLANEOUS

Indt'l Leather Gloves & Apron 4 Sale 0917-8550207

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NORBERTO E. ABODON has been extrajudicially settled with an affidavit of self adjudication by his heirs as per docs 89 & 90 ; page 18; book3 ; Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Jocelyn A. Ratuita

---

MR. MARVIN G. MAGDALUYO

I'M SORRY NA NASAKTAN KITA. GUSTO KONG MALAMAN MO AT NG LAHAT NA MAHAL NA MAHAL KITA. I KNOW I DESERVE ANOTHER CHANCE

KHEI J-SANCHEZ-MAGDALUYO

(PAKIUSAP PO SA MGA MAKAKABASA NITO, IF YOU BELIEVE IN GIVING TRUE LOVE ANOTHER CHANCE, PLEASE INCLUDE US IN YOUR PRAYERS. THANK YOU)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BIG INCOME OPPORTUNITY FREE SEMINAR 09196222798

EARN P5T up/week HOW? share d bisnez 0920-9112910

earnextranow.com code: alb2004 8531008 09178901851

Frm Asia to North America, including US Canada China & Asia. L88 is positioned to help you develop & expand a global biz. Log-on www.L88edc.com

IT'S HERE THE ORIGINAL PATENTED W/ BFAD# MANGOSTEEN JUICE FM U.S. W/ 25 NATURAL HEALTH MIRACLES HAS REPLACED VARIOUS DRUGS. INCENTIVES TO SERIOUS DISTRIBUTORS 0919-5531353 http://takemeto.biz/gotime

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

RTW Wholesaler 3738821

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

DRIVER. Single Pref. Pasig, Mandaluyong, Pateros Resident • Call 6412444 Vicky

DRIVER. Stay-In, 10 Yrs. Exp., Married, Police & Brgy. Clearance 724-9330 724-9328

FEMALE

NEED YAYA MIDWIFE W/REFERENCES CALL 7500000 7504000

SALESLADY. 18-22yrs old 5'2" Height Above, College Level 724-9330 • 724-9328

Salon Receptionist 687-0209

MANDALUYONG

Skin Care Training 532-2115

MALE/FEMALE

Cook w/ 3 Yrs Experience and 2 Work References Call 7500000 7504000

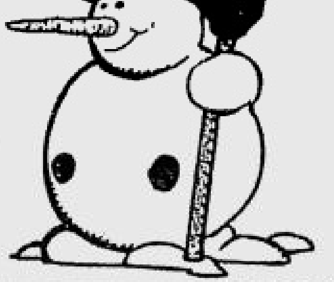
OFC STAFF CRIS 09105890320

Philippine Daily Inquirer
MESSAGEBOARD

Christmas Post

Let your thoughts be heard and add the warmth and essence of heartfelt feelings to all the special people in your life. On December 24, 25 and 26, 2004, publish your personal holiday greetings and messages in Inquirer's "Christmas Post" and share with them the joy of this holiday season.

A serving of sweetness and a load of good cheer sent with warmest wishes to family and friends so dear courtesy of Inquirer Classifieds.



Take advantage of this special offer at a discounted rate of P75.00 per line and P220 per column centimeter for box ads.

For more information, visit or call any Inquirer branch. Prices are VAT inclusive.

Deadline of Ad Placement: December 23, 2004.

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of the following PLDT Stocks Certificates in the names of the following persons/entities as listed herein – 1) Jesus V. Tibayan: (0000090851 - 200 shares), (0000101458 - 100 shares), (0000101459 - 100 shares), (0000026950 - 180 shares and (0000131139 - 180 shares); 0000129639; 2) Palmy B. Tibayan – 350 shares; 3) Tibayan Mgt. Group Intl Holdings (0000140800 - 350 shares) and (0000149849 - 350 shares); 4) TG Asset Management Corp. (0000131277 - 200 shares), (0000153515 - 200 shares), (0000110212 - 200 shares); (0000110213 - 200 shares) and (000110214 - 200 shares); 5) Global Progress Mgt. and Trading – (0000142605) - 200 shares and (0000006118 - 200 shares); 6) Matcor Holdings Corp. (0000048436 - 200 shares), (0000048910 - 200 shares), and (0000048911 - 200 shares); 7) Diamond Star Management (00000157102 - 200 shares); 8) MSI Foreign Exchange - (0000160371 - 200 shares); 9) Las Piñas Construction (0000045710 - 200 shares); 10. Samson P. Martinez (P000020464 - 50 shares, (P000038226 - 15 shares), (PMO00014488 - 15 shares), (0000036863 - 60 shares) and (0000224548 - 180 shares) 11. Liborio E. Elacio (0000002862 - 180 shares); 12. Wilfrido Villahermosa (PMO0040797 - 50 shares), (PMO0041412 - 50 shares), (0000048031 - 180 shares) and (Sw0000209373 - 180 shares); 13. Roemel Mamuric (0000039659 - 170 shares); 14. Florencio L. Naguit (0000011455 - 130 shares), (0000025902 - 180 shares), (0000003576 - 350 shares) (0000003577 - 350 shares), 0000038384 - 180 shares and 0000039457 - (180 shares). If no contest received new certificate will be issued.

(PDI – Dec. 6, 13 & 20, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY,
METRO MANILA

A century of bringing the Filipinos closer together through better transportation and communication

IN RE: APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS AN INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC AIRFREIGHT FORWARDER CONTAINER BRIDGE PHILS., INC
Applicant
CAB CASE NO. 25406

X- x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that CONTAINER BRIDGE PHILS., INC. has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) an application for Authority to Operate as an International and Domestic Airfreight Forwarder. The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on 12 January 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing the applicant shall present evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, or that copies thereof and the application itself be sent to existing CAB certified airfreight forwarders either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at least three (3) days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this application in its merit.

Let a copy of the application and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.
14 December 2004
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) MANUEL A. MORENTE, JR.
Chief, Legal & Enforcement Division

(PDI – Dec. 20, 27, 2004 & Jan. 3, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY,
METRO MANILA

A century of bringing the Filipinos closer together through better transportation and communication

IN RE: PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO ACT AS GENERAL SALES AGENT FOR AIR CANADA
SUPERSONIC SERVICES, INC.
Petitioner.
CAB CASE NO. 25392

X- x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that SUPERSONIC SERVICES, INC. has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) a petition for Authority to act as General Sales Agent for Air Canada. The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on 13 January 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing, the petitioner shall present evidence.

The petitioner is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

Parties opposed to the granting of the petition must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the petitioner, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this petition on its merit.

Let a copy of the application and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.
13 December 2004
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) MANUEL A. MORENTE, JR.
Chief, Legal & Enforcement Division

(PDI – Dec. 20, 27, 2004 & Jan. 3, 2005)

World-class salespeople

RESEARCH consistently demonstrates that over half of those in professional selling lack the basic attributes required for success in this difficult profession - attributes that world-class salespeople possess as natural gifts or develop through training or single-minded focus. Of the remaining half, half of these again have the potential for success in some form of sales, but are currently selling the wrong product or service - leaving just about 25 percent who sell about 80 percent of the world's products and services. That's why it is so key that all those of us with responsibility for driving our businesses forward have a keen understanding of the attributes that make for World-Class Salespeople - so that we can hire more of them. It's also key if we are to recognize where any struggling salespeople on our team might need training or support. Run all of your salespeople against this list of the ten attributes that world-class salespeople share in common: irrepressibly positive attitude; they understand that sales is a numbers game; they live to; totally sales driven; they are competitive; obsessed with "the next step"; they know that they and their products are world class; they qualify hard before they invest time and energy; they expect to hear "No!"; they sell through client knowledge; When you hire new salespeople look for these key attributes; and when you look at your current salespeople, especially those who are struggling, look for which of these attributes are missing - and invest time and money in whatever coaching, training and support they need to develop. Move all of your team into the 20 percent zone and watch your sales soar. Profiles Asia Pacific might be of service to your company. Jocelyn Reyes is executive director of Profiles Asia Pacific. She works with many clients to help them become "Employers of Choice". Contact her at (2) 637-8770 or at Jocelyn@ProfilesAsiaPacific.com.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed that the **Search for Presidency** of the **BASILAN STATE COLLEGE** (BaSC), Isabela City, Zamboanga Peninsula is now **OPEN.**
The following are the qualifications and requirements for the position:

1. Preferably a holder of a Doctorate degree in any related academic fields;
2. Must have five (5) years relevant managerial and administrative experience;
3. Must be a natural born Filipino citizen with proven integrity with no pending administrative and/or criminal cases; and
4. Must be at least 35 years of age but not more than sixty (60) years old on the date of application.
5. Applicants are requested to submit the following requirements:
    a. Letter of Application;
    b. Comprehensive Resumé supported by authenticated documents;
    c. Vision and Mission for the Basilan State College;
    d. Birth Certificate, NBI, Ombudsman, and Police Clearances; and disclosure of current and pending administrative/criminal case/s.

Applicants are requested to submit eight (8) sets of formal applications and certified support documents to the Search Committee through the following not later than **January 15, 2005.**

Dr. Ernie A. Caraecle
PASUC Regional Chairman
Zamboanga State College of Marine Science and Technology (ZSCMST)
Fort Pilar, Zamboanga City
FAX No.: (062) 991-0777

Dr. Yolanda Enriquez-Alcala
Acting Board/College Secretary
Basilan State College (BASC)
Isabela City, Zamboanga Peninsula

(PDI – Dec. 20, 2004)

GIA®

Thailand Campus

Learn the principles of quality Jewelry Design from the world's #1 gemological institute

Jewelry Design Class

Step-by-Step, develop skills needed to create and illustrate designs for a variety of jewelry in full color and fine detail

NO artistic training or experience required

Jewelry Design Class starts March 21, 2005

GIA Thailand Campus

Bisco Tower-12th Flr., 56/12 Sub Rd., Bangrak, Bangkok Thailand
Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77 Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc.th.com www.giathailand.com

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID

Baguio Condominium Unit

Offered for Public Bidding on an "as-is, where-is" basis is an asset formerly owned by **WESTERN MINOLCO CORPORATION (WMC)** consisting of a fully furnished two-storey condominium unit with a floor area of 193 square meters, 3 bedrooms, kitchen, dining area, living room, 3 restrooms and a garage located at Green Mansions Condominium, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City, near Good Shepherd Convent and Mines View Park.

The asset is offered at its **Base Price of P3,900,100.00.**

Bids will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders on January 26, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may secure the sale documents for a nominal fee of P1,500.00 from the PMO Marketing Office.

For more information, please call Ms. Jane V. Santiago at telephone numbers 892-2145; 818-4733.

(PDI – December 20, 21 & 22, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

In consonance with R.A. 8976 otherwise known as the Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000, the National Food Authority (NFA) as the implementing agency on iron fortified rice, wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on January 05, 2005 at 10:00 AM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City among all interested suppliers for the supply of THREE HUNDRED METRIC TONS (300 MT), IRON COATED RICE GRAIN PREMIX (FORTIFICANT) with an approved budget of Php 52M, packed in 25 kg multi-wall paper bag (strong enough to withstand handling). Detailed product specifications shall be included in the Terms of Reference (TOR). Delivery period at designated NFA Manila warehouse/s shall be not later than March 15, 2005 and with BUYER'S option for an early delivery.

All interested suppliers are required to submit price offers in Philippine Currency, as specified in the NFA Bid Form.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the approved budget of Php 52 M in the form of Cash, Cashier's and/or Manager's Check or an irrevocable L/C issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila.

List of Eligibility Requirements and Instruction to Bidders may be secured thru MR. TOMAS R. ESCAREZ, Assistant Department Manager and MR. NESTOR U. PUANGCO, Division Manager, Department for Marketing Operations, 5th Flr., NFA Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City, Telephone Nos. 712-1564, 743-8696 or 712-3341 Loc. 8513 starting December 10, 2004.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) and Bid Documents will likewise be available starting December 10, 2004 up to December 29, 2004 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) upon payment of a Php15,000.00 non-refundable fee.

The **Pre-Bidding** conference will be held on **December 22, 2004 at 10:00 AM** at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

Submission of eligibility requirements, technical proposal and price offers will be between 8:00 AM to 9:55 AM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City on **January 05, 2005. Opening of bids** will start at exactly **10:00 AM.**

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required or defect therein and accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **JESSUP P. NAVARRO**
Deputy Administrator and Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – December 10 & 20, 2004)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts. Malate, Manila
Telephone Nos. 405-7366 & 405-7247 / 48 (direct lines)
Trunklines 522-0000 & 551-2200 locals 2374 / 2308 / 7366

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with the 10% bid bond for the purchase of the properties co-owned by a consortium of Banks (LBP – 53.53%, Metrobank – 35.29%, Asiatrust – 8.24%, RCBC Savings – 2.94%) listed below will be received at the **Special Assets Department, 10th Floor, LBP Plaza, Malate, Manila** not later than **January 17, 2005 @ 10:00 A.M.** at which place, date & time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P1,000.00.

	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
1.	264,256 sq.m. Land broken down as follows: TCT No. T-1038286 – 144,208 sq.m. TCT No. T-1038287 – 10,000 sq.m. TCT No. T-1038288 – 95,270 sq.m. TCT No. T-1038289 – 10,055 sq.m. TCT No. T-1038290 – 4,723 sq.m.	San Agustin, Dasmariñas, Cavite	697,545,000.00
2.	Buildings, Machinery and Equipment	San Agustin, Dasmariñas, Cavite	575,413,000.00

The Terms of Reference for the public bidding, inventory listing and bid forms shall be available on December 21, 2004 at the Special Assets Department (SPAD), Land Bank of the Philippines located at the 30th Floor, LBP Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila (near Diamond Hotel) upon payment of a non-refundable registration/application fee of PESOS: Five Thousand (P5,000.00). Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of the property shall be on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis. **The sale of the property thru public bidding is a direct sale transaction, hence no broker's commission shall be paid.** The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to the approval of the BANKS' approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF LAND BANK SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

(Sgd.) **JOSE C. NOGRALES**
Chairman
COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

(PDI – December 20, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2004-022

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements.

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No./Inquiry No.	ABC
I	Jan. 11, 2005 10:00 A.M Kañao Room	Operation Materials for Oriental Mindoro Substation	PB041117-MMSB2061 (PB2)	3,687,900.00
II		Mechanical Parts for Marinawa DPP "CKD"	PB040831-MMAD1460 (PB2)	7,757,416.90
III		Mechanical Parts for Palanan DPP "Perkins"	PB05011-MMSB2316	2,475,100.00
IV	Jan. 11, 2005 2:00 P.M. Kañao Room	Mechanical Spare Parts for Masbate DPP "MAN B & W"	PB050111-MMAD2317	3,586,000.00
V		Mechanical Parts for Casiguran DPP "MAN"	PB050111-MMSB2318	1,950,835.00
VI		Turbocharger, IHI for PB120	PB050111-MMSB2319	3,000,000.00
VII	Jan. 12, 2005 2:00 P.M. Kañao Room	Rental for Mobile and Diesel Fired Generating Units for Pulang-lupa DPP	PB050112-MMVB2320	62,832,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
Schedule I-VI	Dec. 27, 2004	2:00 PM	Kañao Function Room
Schedule VII	Dec. 21, 2004	10:00 AM	Pahiyas Function Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept., of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 9245357/9245477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP500.00 per schedule starting on December 13, 2004, from 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. only. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by PSD/MMSD will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee – One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **LORENZO S. MARCELO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI – December 13 & 20, 2004)

Wanted: quality agents

ASPIRE IT Solutions Inc, a major player in the IT recruitment and staffing business announces the formation of Call Center Dynamics (CCD) a business unit setup to apply its own unique brand of Internet and assessments based recruitment services to the Call Center industry. Call Center Dynamics is a 50/50 joint venture between Aspire IT Solutions and Profiles Asia Pacific Inc. Whilst Profiles provides the Internet based assessment technology, Aspire provides the recruitment expertise. CCD helps its clients in the call center industry find, hire, and keep top contact center performers. If you need to hire, boost your profits, and reduce turnover, contact CCD at Tel +63 2 6700-852502.

HERITAGE PARK
*The newest and most modern Funeral Home & Crematory in the country!
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38
Direct Line: (632) 845-2440

OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

KC PEREZ DE VENECIA

(April 6, 1988 – December 17, 2004)

Beloved daughter to **Speaker Jose** and **Georgina de Venecia**, wonderful sister to **Alexandra Haner, Leslie Norton, Vivian Garcia, Jose de Venecia III, Carissa Cruz, Felipe Cruz III,** best friend and sister to **Christopher de Venecia** and loving granddaughter to **Azucena Vera Perez**, amazing classmate, precious niece, member of the cool cousin group *The Bulilit Gang* and cherished friend.

A fun-loving, passionate, sweet, intelligent girl who lived life to the fullest. She spoke her mind freely and loved with all her heart. Please pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio Church, Forbes Park, Makati. Interment will be on December 22 at 10:00 a.m. at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the KC de Venecia Foundation.

MICHAEL SURBAN LINA

Has peacefully joined our Creator on December 19, 2004 at the age of 34.

His parents **Alex** and **Ludy Lina**; wife **Joanne**; children **Jessica & Chloe**; siblings **Gigi** and **Harvey Libarnes, Rachel** and **Vanessa**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque City. Interment will be on December 23, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park after the 2:00 PM Mass.

Engr. AMOR CELERIDAD CEÑIDOZA

Has joined his wife, Laura Antazo, and peacefully rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord on December 15, 2004 at the age of 82.

His loving children **Enrico, Elizabeth** and husband **Artemio Carrasco**, and grand-daughters **Bethania Marie** and **Lugenia Anne** and sister **Norma Ceñidoza** request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #10 West Capitol Drive, Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 21, 2004 at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 PM Mass at the Immaculate Conception Basilica, Pasig City.

Our Dearly Beloved Papa

LEONARDO ACOSTA DELA PEÑA

FORMER DIVISION CHIEF INFORMAL ENTRY – SOUTH HARBOR
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

Peacefully joined our Lord & his wife ***Lourdes Palma*** *on December 18, 2004 at the age of 73.*

His children **Jun, Ed, Gary, Chubby** (†) and **Jolly**; daughters-in-law **Nonette & Line**; grandchildren **RB & Lenard**; sisters **Candida & Hilaria**; nephews, nieces, relatives & friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Presidential Suite Chapel, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 21, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park Marikina after the 12 noon mass at Nuestra Señora de Gracia, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

Dra. Melicia "Mising" De Guzman De Guzman

of Santa Rosa, N.E. and Cabanatuan City

Peacefully joined the Lord on December 19, 2004 at the age of 77.

She will be most missed by her husband **Dr. Sito**, her children **Lynne, Dr. Rainier, Naldi & Riza**; in-laws **Raul Arellano, Dr. Mae Aguirre, Nelia Zeñarosa** and **Pong De Leon**; grandchildren **Maia, Enzo, Bea, Sam, Gaby, Rain,** and **Niko**. They request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Sto. Niño Chapel, Kapitan Pepe Subdivision, Cabanatuan City.

Cremation will be in the morning of Wednesday, December 22, 2004 in the City of Dagupan.

"Pour out your heart before Him; God is refuge for us." Psalms 62:8

CARIDAD NAKPIL vda. De SANTOS – VIOLA

Peacefully joined our Creator on December 18, 2004 at the age of 86.

Her children **Rosario, Milagros, Maria Paz, Lourdes & Carlos** & grandchildren request your prayers.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on December 22, 2004, 9:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

In lieu of flowers, donations for the Capuchin Seminarians are requested.

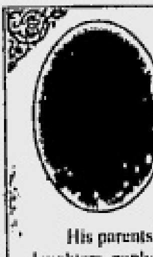
COL. ESTEBAN B. VILLASE JR. (RET.)

Peacefully joined our Lord on December 17, 2004 at the age of 69.

His children **Ann & John, Liza & Jake, Virna & Cris, Molly & Noy, Marvin, Steve**; mother **Beatrice B. Ilumin**; sisters & brothers in-law **Shirley & Jun, Minda & Efren, Linda & Willy, May & Tony, Vicky & Nonong**; grandchildren **Janna, Joco, Jam-Jam, Jelo, Yari, Robyn, Cyril, Emon, Zeus**; cousins, aunties, uncles, in-laws, nephews & nieces and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat Parañaque.

Interment will be on Wednesday, December 22, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque after the 2:00 P.M. Mass.



1st Death Anniversary

Federico "Ricky" Manuud Salcedo, Jr.

Love, Care and Beautiful Memories out last the pain of grief
My dear son, for touching our lives, we "thank you"

His parents Fred (†) and Josie Manuud Salcedo; brothers and only sister, sons, daughters, nephews, nieces and grandchildren request pious readers to pray for his soul.

Masses are being offered today, December 20, 2004 at 6:00 PM at the following Churches:

Sanctuario del Sto. Cristo
Immaculate Concepcion (Marikina)
Mary the Queen.

I am the way; the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE : 897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO : 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI : 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW : 528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL : 635-0219; 635-0220

Christmas gifts for a techno-freak

LAST year, Apple's iPod MP3 player was the hands-down winner of all the games and gadgets we reviewed. This year, we boil it down to three things techno-freaks at Infotech found nifty.

For a year, we have reviewed many consumer gadgets and toys, ranging from cellular phones to personal computers to digital cameras and dozens of video games.

Some of them were very expensive, some of them were reasonably priced. We tried to get the middle point by comparing features with the price, and factored in the total experience of using a digital consumer gadget. The result of that evaluation is what you see on this page now—three tech-related stuff techno-freaks would love to have for Christmas.

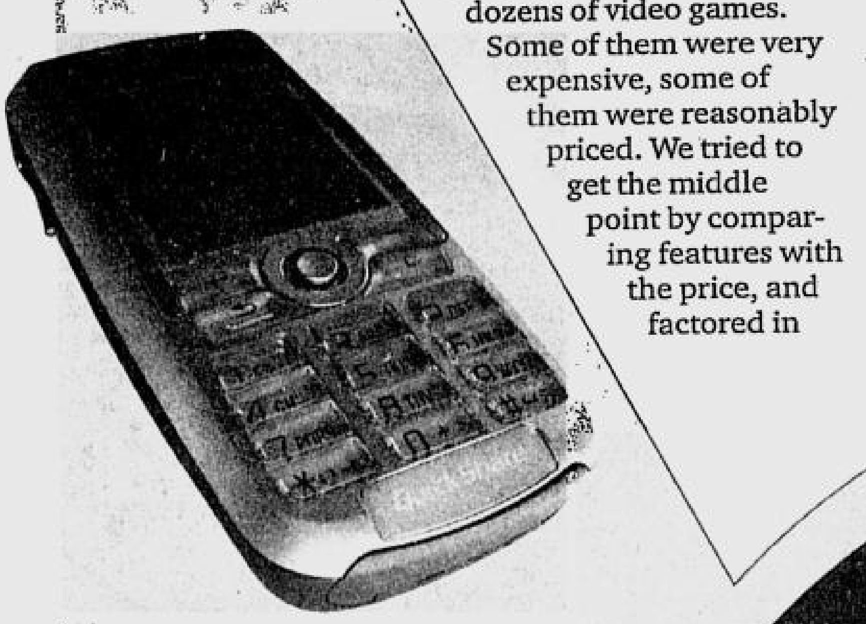
Let's start off with guns blazing.

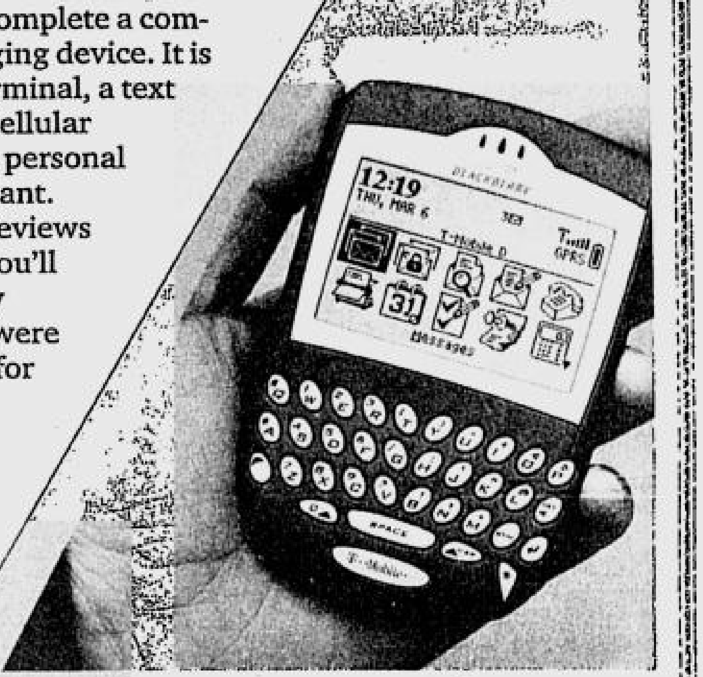
In terms of the hype and excitement generated by any technology-related consumer product, we found the game "Halo 2" for the Microsoft Xbox gaming console to be at the top of the list. Halo 2 is by no means a perfect game, and has some disappointing areas as you will discover in the review below. But in the end the game proved to be worth all the accolades and the expectations it was subjected to.

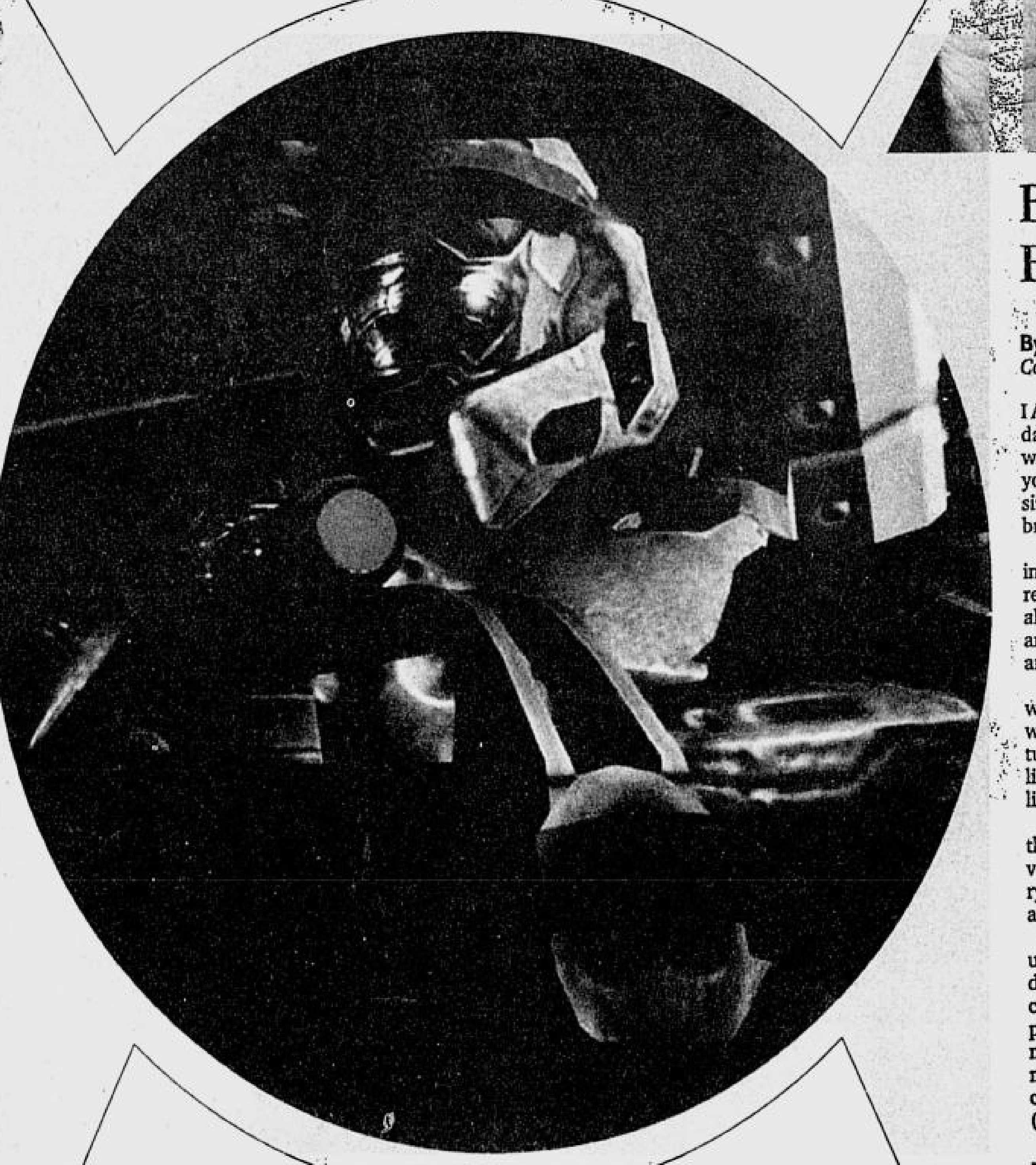
And what would a year's review of gadgets be like if it didn't include a cellular phone in the list? Dozens of cellular phones were released this year, and it was really a tough choice. In the end, however, a fully loaded multimedia phone from Sony Ericsson outshone them all in terms of features, usability and price.

Finally, a gadget that really made our year is one of the top three in this list. Consumers are still confused about what kind of animal the RIM Blackberry really is. People call it a phone-PDA or a PDA-phone. We call it a complete a complete messaging device. It is an e-mail terminal, a text machine, a cellular phone and a personal digital assistant.

Read the reviews below and you'll find out why these three were our choices for the year.







Sony Ericsson K700i wins war

By Leo Magno

DOZENS of cellular phone models were introduced in 2004, and we were able to review many of them. These phones ranged from the low-end, voice and text bare essentials to the high-end, PDA-type of phones that cost as much as personal computers.

And so it goes without saying that it was difficult to choose from among the phones we reviewed which would be most recommendable as far as features, functionality and price are concerned. In the end we settled for a mid-range phone, one from Sony Ericsson.

The K700i topped them all when it came to balancing price with features. At P16,000, this phone is still expensive and barely makes it to the price of mid-range phones. But for that price you get features previously found only in high-end, PDA-type of phones.

This phone is a multimedia powerhouse.

Images and sounds are handled well, with a big, 176x220-pixel resolution color screen that is equal to the Nokia Series 60 devices. The TFT screen capable of 65,000 colors is big, bright and the operating system animation is cute. The 640x480 VGA camera has been enhanced to include a camcorder. The camera has a 4x digital zoom and a camera light ingeniously located at the back of the phone. In fact, when you turn the phone around it looks like a digital camera, and don't forget that Sony is one of the biggest digital camera producers in the world. Camera clarity is good and has a panorama mode that makes it stand out. This mode lets you take three overlapping photos that the phone auto-stitches together, giving you one very wide image. Other fun camera features include the frames, which allow you to add interesting comic-like backdrops to the image.

On the sound department, the phone has a good polyphonic system, MP3 player and built-in FM radio. It produces crisp audio and ring tones, with eight volume levels.

To handle all this multimedia audio and video, the phone has a respectable 41Mb of memory; this is huge for a mobile phone.

The downside to all this multimedia capability is battery consumption. The phone sucks up battery charge like a drunkard let loose in a bar after being in jail for a year. Realistic and real-world operating time for the phone—using full camera, phone and audio functions—is two-and-a-half days, although Sony Ericsson claims a talk time of eight hours and standby of 300 hours.

All in all, the K700i is loaded with features. It has a nice, sleek metallic look, and is very user-friendly. And all this for P16,000, at which price other phones don't even come fully packed.

Blackberry 7230: E-mail in pocket

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
Contributor

I AM sitting in front of my house watching my daughter Natasha learn to ride a bike, while I write this article. No, I'm not using a laptop as you might have suspected. I'm using a palm-sized (not to be confused with the Palm brand) device called a Blackberry.

The Blackberry was developed by Research in Motion (RIM) as a device for sending and receiving e-mail wirelessly. Newer models can also make phone calls, send text messages, and browse the Internet—all in a lightweight and slim design.

But any gadget is only as good as the software or applications that come with it. So I will take you through some of the major features of the Blackberry based on what I believe field telecommuters (such as journalists like myself) find useful.

First, let's focus on the e-mail features of the Blackberry (the 7230 model for this review). This is the key feature of the Blackberry and it does a good job of letting you send and receive e-mail while on the go.

But there are still some limitations. Office users who want access to their office e-mail directly need to be using either Microsoft Exchange or IBM Lotus Domino as their e-mail platform. If your office doesn't use these e-mail systems, you can still send or receive e-mail but you'll have to create an e-mail account with your mobile network provider (Smart Communications in this case).

However, Smart lets you access up to 10 regular POP e-mail accounts on your Blackberry by specifying them when you sign up for your e-mail account.

For this review, I used Smart's e-mail system to test the e-mail feature.

To create an e-mail account, I visited Smart's Blackberry website to activate the e-mail service. It is fairly easy to set it up. Once you're on the website, you are asked to supply a PIN (personal identification number) and your unit's unique International Mobile Equipment Identifier (IMEI) code.

You can find the IMEI and a default PIN under the Options menu and under a sub-menu labeled Status.

It took me five minutes to activate the e-mail account. After a few seconds, I received a welcome message from Smart saying that my e-mail account was ready for use.

I then started adding e-mail addresses into Blackberry's integrated phone and address book in order to start sending, err, spam to friends.

This part was a bit tedious since I had to familiarize myself with the built-in QWERTY keyboard. For quite some time, my right thumb had been doing the typing. Now I had to train my left thumb.

BLACKBERRY/B16

'Halo 2' a great game, but ends with a whimper

By Joey G. Alarilla
Contributor

HALO 2 is awesome. Halo 2 is a big letdown.

Sound schizophrenic? If you've played and finished this much-awaited Xbox game (event actually, because it's broken all sorts of gaming industry records and has sold over five million copies so far), you know exactly what I mean. It's still a great game, no question about it, but the ending? Arghh!

I won't spoil the game for those who haven't played through Halo 2 yet, but let's just say you'll feel very strongly about the controversial cliffhanger ending. You're either going to like it and defend it as the ending Bungie planned all along, or you're going to cuss when you realize it's the ending and that's all the thanks you get for the 10 to 15 hours you've put into finishing Halo 2. I'm firmly in the camp of people who think the ending's full of crap.

You know how you don't want some games to end even as you desperately try to finish them as quickly as possible, because you want to see the conclusion, move on to another title, or, I dunno, do other things in life? Well, I found myself saying, "Nah, this can't be the last stage. I mean, it can't end with me as... Oh good, I was right... see, I get to...WTF?!!! (credits roll)."

And while I haven't beaten the game yet on Heroic or Legendary mode—Normal, OK?—from the violent reactions of many Halo 2 players, yup, this is the ending Bungie and Microsoft saddled us with for the single-player campaign. To be fair, I didn't like the "Half-Life 2" ending so much, either, but it was nothing compared to the disappointment I felt with the Halo 2 ending.

The thing is, however, that you have so much to love about Halo 2. The graphics, the sound, the gameplay—Halo 2 excels in all these areas and offers you a truly enjoyable experience. I was all pumped up the moment the game started and I was Master Chief again—the new improved Master Chief with better armor and a personal shield that regenerates more rapidly. I could feel the adrenaline rush as the Covenant fleet appeared ready to invade Earth. Heck, wasn't that what all the teasers were promising, that you'd be saving Earth? So, presumably, most of the action will take place on Earth? Hey, we saw the demo trailers, right? And that scene with Master Chief hitching a ride on a rocket? Hah!

Suffice it to say that you get to travel to a lot of other places in Halo 2. Plus you don't have to backtrack as much as you did in the original game. One thing I really find cool about Halo 2 is that you get to try different things with every level. Who says first-person shooters should just be endless levels of you running around with your bad-ass weapons? Here, it's crucial to man turrets, ride Warthogs, Banshees, Ghosts, Wraiths, and uh, other vehicles—play the game, I won't spoil the surprise.

Speaking of vehicles, one of the coolest features in Halo 2 is the ability to jack enemy vehicles. Yup, you can make believe it's "GTA: Halo." It's such a rush to board an enemy craft (using the X button when you're prompted once you get in position), start hammering away using the B button, then plant a bomb using the left trigger. Then you can drive the vehicle using the X button. Let me tell you, it feels great to fire at an enemy Wraith while riding a Ghost, close in, land and then try to jack the Wraith.

Another enhancement is the ability to use two weapons simultaneously via dual wielding. The first time I realized this could now be done in Halo 2, I felt like I was in a John Woo flick. It's been seamlessly introduced into the Halo 2 control scheme that you might find yourself wondering if this option was available all along in the first Halo (in case you're still thinking, it wasn't). I have my gripes about it, though, because if you're dual wielding and want to select your reserve weapon—say, you're walking around with a plasma pistol in one hand and a needler in the other, but now want to switch to your beam rifle—you have to drop one weapon first using X, then switch to the reserve weapon using Y. Plus I'm really used to lobbing grenades while I'm firing with a weapon, and obviously you can't do this while dual wielding. Still, it adds more options, apart from the fact that you have a breathtaking array of weapons you can now handle.

One of the best enhancements in the weapons department is that Master Chief can now wield the Covenant energy sword. That sword has saved my butt a number of times, particularly because now you also have the option of using it to target an enemy during melee and performing an instant kill (well, unless you're fighting heavy-duty bad-asses like the Hunters, who have been altered from their counterparts in the original Halo) by pulling the right trigger.

One of the best things about the original Halo was its plot—it was one of the rare occasions gamers actually cared about the story while playing an FPS. Halo 2 reveals

HALO/B16

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Christmas gifts for a techno-freak

LAST year, Apple's iPod MP3 player was the hands-down winner of all the games and gadgets we reviewed. This year, we boil it down to three things techno-freaks at Infotech found nifty.

For a year, we have reviewed many consumer gadgets and toys, ranging from cellular phones to personal computers to digital cameras and dozens of video games. Some of them were very expensive, some of them were reasonably priced. We tried to get the middle point by comparing features with the price, and factored in the total experience of using a digital consumer gadget. The result of that evaluation is what you see on this page now—three tech-related stuff techno-freaks would love to have for Christmas.

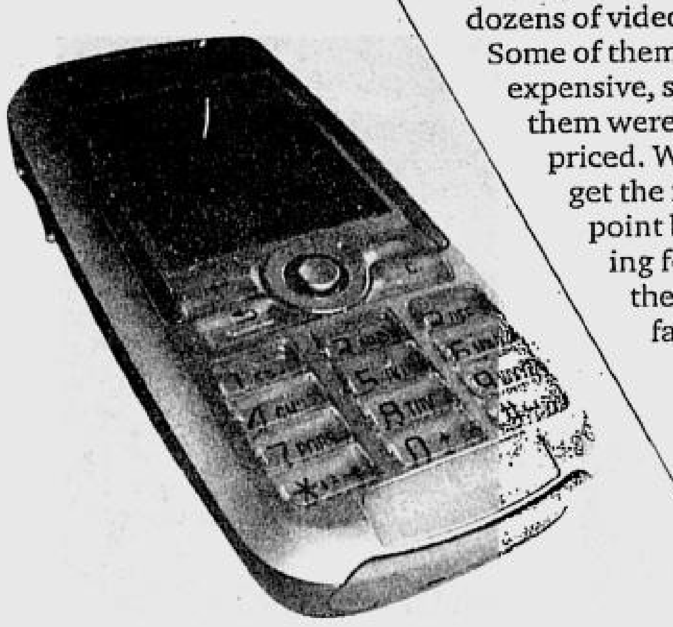
Let's start off with guns blazing.

In terms of the hype and excitement generated by any technology-related consumer product, we found the game "Halo 2" for the Microsoft Xbox gaming console to be at the top of the list. Halo 2 is by no means a perfect game, and has some disappointing areas as you will discover in the review below. But in the end the game proved to be worth all the accolades and the expectations it was subjected to.

And what would a year's review of gadgets be like if it didn't include a cellular phone in the list? Dozens of cellular phones were released this year, and it was really a tough choice. In the end, however, a fully loaded multimedia phone from Sony Ericsson outshone them all in terms of features, usability and price.

Finally, a gadget that really made our year is one of the top three in this list. Consumers are still confused about what kind of animal the RIM Blackberry really is. People call it a phone-PDA or a PDA-phone. We call it a complete a complete messaging device. It is an e-mail terminal, a text machine, a cellular phone and a personal digital assistant.

Read the reviews below and you'll find out why these three were our choices for the year.



Sony Ericsson K700i wins war

By Leo Magno

DOZENS of cellular phone models were introduced in 2004, and we were able to review many of them. These phones ranged from the low-end, voice and text bare essentials to the high-end, PDA-type of phones that cost as much as personal computers.

And so it goes without saying that it was difficult to choose from among the phones we reviewed which would be most recommendable as far as features, functionality and price are concerned. In the end we settled for a mid-range phone, one from Sony Ericsson.

The K700i topped them all when it came to balancing price with features. At P16,000, this phone is still expensive and barely makes it to the price of mid-range phones. But for that price you get features previously found only in high-end, PDA-type of phones.

This phone is a multimedia powerhouse.

Images and sounds are handled well, with a big, 176x220-pixel resolution color screen that is equal to the Nokia Series 60 devices. The TFT screen capable of 65,000 colors is big, bright and the operating system animation is cute. The 640x480 VGA camera has been enhanced to include a camcorder. The camera has a 4x digital zoom and a camera light ingeniously located at the back of the phone. In fact, when you turn the phone around it looks like a digital camera, and don't forget that Sony is one of the biggest digital camera producers in the world. Camera clarity is good and has a panorama mode that makes it stand out. This mode lets you take three overlapping photos that the phone auto-stitches together, giving you one very wide image. Other fun camera features include the frames, which allow you to add interesting comic-like backdrops to the image.

On the sound department, the phone has a good polyphonic system, MP3 player and built-in FM radio. It produces crisp audio and ring tones, with eight volume levels.

To handle all this multimedia audio and video, the phone has a respectable 41Mb of memory; this is huge for a mobile phone.

The downside to all this multimedia capability is battery consumption. The phone sucks up battery charge like a drunkard let loose in a bar after being in jail for a year. Realistic and real-world operating time for the phone—using full camera, phone and audio functions—is two-and-a-half days, although Sony Ericsson claims a talk time of eight hours and standby of 300 hours.

All in all, the K700i is loaded with features. It has a nice, sleek metallic look, and is very user-friendly. And all this for P16,000, at which price other phones don't even come fully packed.

'Halo 2' a great game, but ends with a whimper

By Joey G. Alarilla
Contributor

HALO 2 is awesome. Halo 2 is a big letdown.

Sound schizophrenic? If you've played and finished this much-awaited Xbox game (event actually, because it's broken all sorts of gaming industry records and has sold over five million copies so far), you know exactly what I mean. It's still a great game, no question about it, but the ending? Arghh!

I won't spoil the game for those who haven't played through Halo 2 yet, but let's just say you'll feel very strongly about the controversial cliffhanger ending. You're either going to like it and defend it as the ending Bungie planned all along, or you're going to cuss when you realize it's the ending and that's all the thanks you get for the 10 to 15 hours you've put into finishing Halo 2. I'm firmly in the camp of people who think the ending's full of crap.

You know how you don't want some games to end even as you desperately try to finish them as quickly as possible, because you want to see the conclusion, move on to another title, or, I dunno, do other things in life? Well, I found myself saying, "Nah, this can't be the last stage. I mean, it can't end with me as... Oh good, I was right... see, I get to...WTF?!!! (credits roll)."

And while I haven't beaten the game yet on Heroic or Legendary mode—Normal, OK?—from the violent reactions of many Halo 2 players, yup, this is the ending Bungie and Microsoft saddled us with for the single-player campaign. To be fair, I didn't like the "Half-Life 2" ending so much, either, but it was nothing compared to the disappointment I felt with the Halo 2 ending.

The thing is, however, that you have so much to love about Halo 2. The graphics, the sound, the gameplay—Halo 2 excels in all these areas and offers you a truly enjoyable experience. I was all pumped up the moment the game started and I was Master Chief again—the new improved Master Chief with better armor and a personal shield that regenerates more rapidly. I could feel the adrenaline rush as the Covenant fleet appeared ready to invade Earth. Heck, wasn't that what all the teasers were promising, that you'd be saving Earth? So, presumably, most of the action will take place on Earth? Hey, we saw the demo trailers, right? And that scene with Master Chief hitching a ride on a rocket? Hah!

Suffice it to say that you get to travel to a lot of other places in Halo 2. Plus you don't have to backtrack as much as you did in the original game. One thing I really find cool about Halo 2 is that you get to try different things with every level. Who says first-person shooters should just be endless levels of you running around with your bad-ass weapons? Here, it's crucial to man turrets, ride Warthogs, Banshees, Ghosts, Wraiths, and uh, other vehicles—play the game, I won't spoil the surprise.

Speaking of vehicles, one of the coolest features in Halo 2 is the ability to jack enemy vehicles. Yup, you can make believe it's "GTA: Halo." It's such a rush to board an enemy craft (using the X button when you're prompted once you get in position), start hammering away using the B button, then plant a bomb using the left trigger. Then you can drive the vehicle using the X button. Let me tell you, it feels great to fire at an enemy Wraith while riding a Ghost, close in, land and then try to jack the Wraith.

Another enhancement is the ability to use two weapons simultaneously via dual wielding. The first time I realized this could now be done in Halo 2, I felt like I was in a John Woo flick. It's been seamlessly introduced into the Halo 2 control scheme that you might find yourself wondering if this option was available all along in the first Halo (in case you're still thinking, it wasn't). I have my gripes about it, though, because if you're dual wielding and want to select your reserve weapon—say, you're walking around with a plasma pistol in one hand and a needler in the other, but now want to switch to your beam rifle—you have to drop one weapon first using X, then switch to the reserve weapon using Y. Plus I'm really used to lobbing grenades while I'm firing with a weapon, and obviously you can't do this while dual wielding. Still, it adds more options, apart from the fact that you have a breathtaking array of weapons you can now handle.

One of the best enhancements in the weapons department is that Master Chief can now wield the Covenant energy sword. That sword has saved my butt a number of times, particularly because now you also have the option of using it to target an enemy during melee and performing an instant kill (well, unless you're fighting heavy-duty bad-asses like the Hunters, who have been altered from their counterparts in the original Halo) by pulling the right trigger.

One of the best things about the original Halo was its plot—it was one of the rare occasions gamers actually cared about the story while playing an FPS. Halo 2 reveals

HALO/B16

Blackberry 7230: E-mail in pocket

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
Contributor

I AM sitting in front of my house watching my daughter Natasha learn to ride a bike, while I write this article. No, I'm not using a laptop as you might have suspected. I'm using a palm-sized (not to be confused with the Palm brand) device called a Blackberry.

The Blackberry was developed by Research in Motion (RIM) as a device for sending and receiving e-mail wirelessly. Newer models can also make phone calls, send text messages, and browse the Internet—all in a lightweight and slim design.

But any gadget is only as good as the software or applications that come with it. So I will take you through some of the major features of the Blackberry based on what I believe field telecommuters (such as journalists like myself) find useful.

First, let's focus on the e-mail features of the Blackberry (the 7230 model for this review). This is the key feature of the Blackberry and it does a good job of letting you send and receive e-mail while on the go.

But there are still some limitations. Office users who want access to their office e-mail directly need to be using either Microsoft Exchange or IBM Lotus Domino as their e-mail platform. If your office doesn't use these e-mail systems, you can still send or receive e-mail but you'll have to create an e-mail account with your mobile network provider (Smart Communications in this case).

However, Smart lets you access up to 10 regular POP e-mail accounts on your Blackberry by specifying them when you sign up for your e-mail account.

For this review, I used Smart's e-mail system to test the e-mail feature.

To create an e-mail account, I visited Smart's Blackberry website to activate the e-mail service. It is fairly easy to set it up. Once you're on the website, you are asked to supply a PIN (personal identification number) and your unit's unique International Mobile Equipment Identifier (IMEI) code.

You can find the IMEI and a default PIN under the Options menu and under a sub-menu labeled Status.

It took me five minutes to activate the e-mail account. After a few seconds, I received a welcome message from Smart saying that my e-mail account was ready for use.

I then started adding e-mail addresses into Blackberry's integrated phone and address book in order to start sending, err, spam to friends.

This part was a bit tedious since I had to familiarize myself with the built-in QWERTY keyboard. For quite some time, my right thumb had been doing the typing. Now I had to train my left thumb.

BLACKBERRY/B16

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

INFOTECH

E-mail: pr_info_tech@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Leo Magno

Text us your feedback: inquirer it name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Blackberry 7230: E-mail in my pocket

From page B15

Once my contacts were in, I started sending test messages. In a few minutes, I got replies.

By the way, the Blackberry uses the General Packet Radio Service or GPRS network to send your e-mail—which means you might find it hard to send or receive e-mail in areas where Smart's GPRS signal is weak.

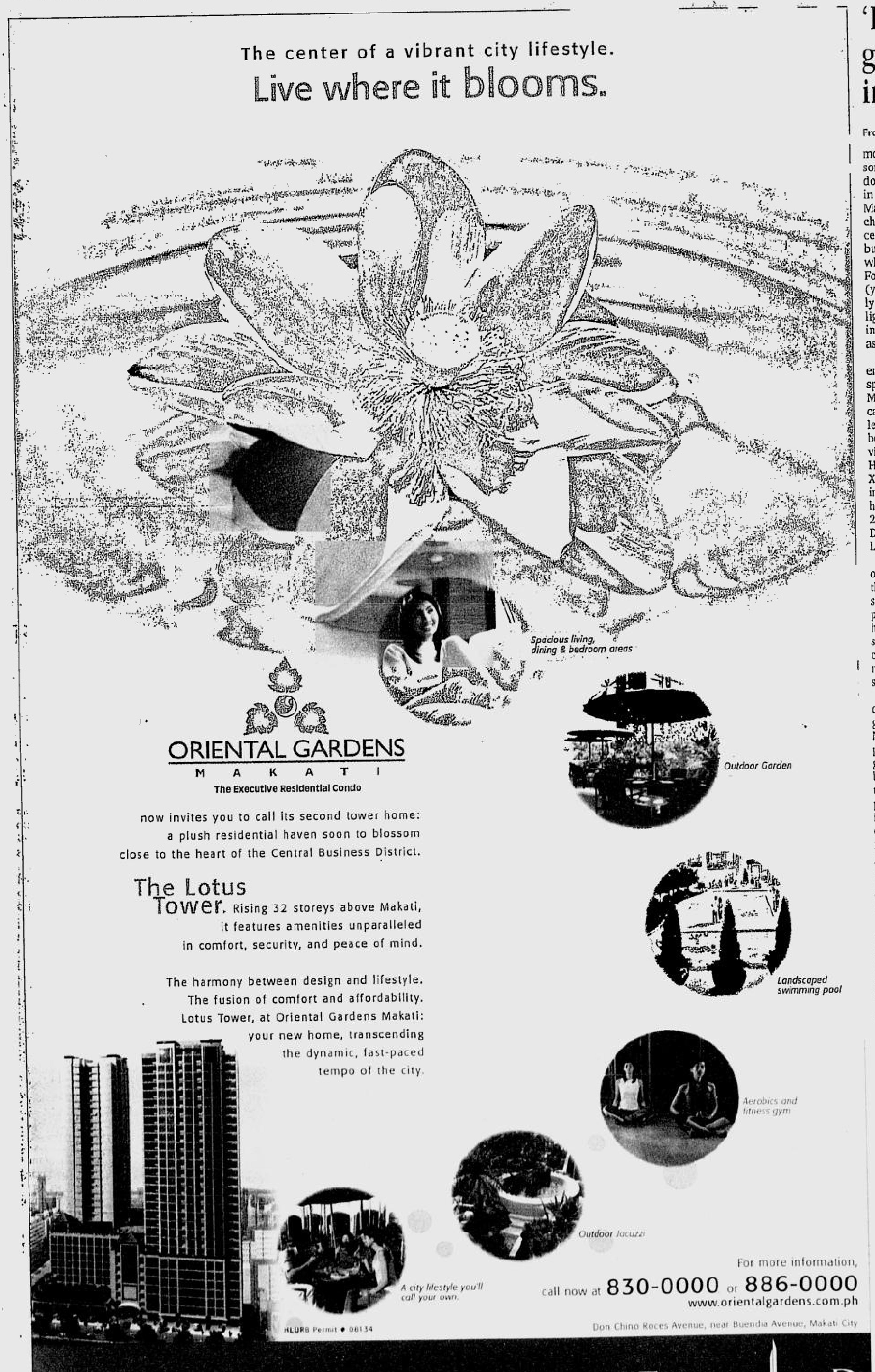
The Blackberry can also open e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, as well as other formats, but it lacks a memory card expansion slot so you could run out of space for a lot of attachments.

Aside from e-mail, the Blackberry has other features like a calendar and a WAP browser for accessing stripped-down versions of websites, plus other PDA-type of software.

However, the Blackberry lacks a stylus, something I've gotten used to having in handhelds. It has no Bluetooth support either.

The unit also needs an automatic backlighting system to make it easier to type in low-light conditions, though the flipside of that is that the unit has great battery life—I didn't need to charge the unit for almost a week (I also got a tip from Pearl Santos of Smart that if you always keep the Blackberry in its holster, the battery life becomes longer).

Overall, the Blackberry 7230 can replace your phone and PDA if e-mail is the key application for you. Corporate users who don't use Exchange and Domino may have to go through the additional hassle of adding yet another e-mail address to their calling cards, but for some that's a small price to pay for on-the-go e-mail access.



The center of a vibrant city lifestyle.
Live where it blooms.

Spacious living, dining & bedroom areas

ORIENTAL GARDENS
MAKATI
The Executive Residential Condo

now invites you to call its second tower home:
a plush residential haven soon to blossom
close to the heart of the Central Business District.

The Lotus Tower. Rising 32 storeys above Makati,
it features amenities unparalleled
in comfort, security, and peace of mind.

The harmony between design and lifestyle.
The fusion of comfort and affordability.
Lotus Tower, at Oriental Gardens Makati:
your new home, transcending
the dynamic, fast-paced
tempo of the city.

Outdoor Garden

Landscaped swimming pool

Aerobics and fitness gym

Outdoor Jacuzzi

A city lifestyle you'll call your own.

For more information,
call now at 830-0000 or 886-0000
www.orientalgardens.com.ph

HLURB Permit # 08134

Don Chino Roces Avenue, near Buendia Avenue, Makati City

A member of the Metrobank Group

FEDERALAND
OWNER · DEVELOPER · PROPERTY MANAGER
Taking Life Higher.

'Halo 2': This great game ends in a whimper

From page B15

more details about the Covenant and offers some surprising twists, but frankly the plot doesn't really deliver in this sequel. It's all tied in to the fact that you don't play exclusively as Master Chief. Yup, there's a second playable character, and you have to play him during certain stages. Now, it was cool at the start, but come on! I don't know about you, but when I play Halo I want to be Master Chief. Forcing players to use the second character (yeah, yeah, 'coz it's "part of the plot") is really irritating and seems like a huge cop-out in light of the—there's that word again—ending. Repeat after me: "Bungie: I want to play as Master Chief."

The controversy surrounding the Halo 2 ending has even spawned a number of conspiracy theories. Some say that this is what Microsoft and Bungie planned all along because Halo 2.5 or heck, Halo 3, will be released early next year, or the true ending will be made available for download exclusively via Xbox Live. In fact, a gamer who finished Halo 2 on Legendary mode said on Xbox.ign.com that a piece of text appears saying "February 9th, 2005," further reinforcing his belief that this is when the true final Halo 2 level will be made available on Xbox Live. Don't ask me; I haven't tried finishing it on Legendary yet.

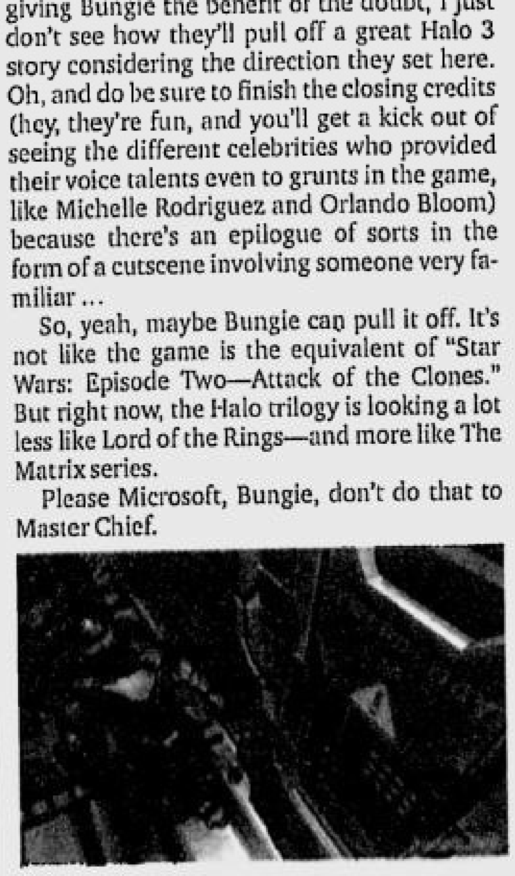
Others are speculating that Bungie developed Halo 2 and Halo 3 simultaneously, like the last two films in The Matrix trilogy. Some say that parts of Halo 2 were removed and placed in Halo 3. I mean, there was that much hyped E3 demo, right, with all that action supposedly taking place on Earth? But Microsoft and Bungie have said that it was a demo and did not necessarily reflect any actual stage in Halo 2.

I guess that's really why some gamers feel disappointed, not because Halo 2 wasn't a great game, but because the perception is that Microsoft and Bungie somehow misled people. True, demos are different from the actual game and maybe something different had been planned originally, but the fact is right until launch people were hyped over the prospect of playing on Earth and defending it from the Covenant. The boys over at Microsoft and Bungie didn't dissuade anyone from believing that, and so a lot of bubbles got burst. And whether any of the conspiracy theories is true and Halo 3 will appear next year or as a launch title for Xenon (a.k.a. Xbox Two), it's cold comfort once you come face-to-face with the Halo 2 ending.

Sure, defenders say that the cliffhanger ending is just right since Halo 2 is the middle part of a trilogy and should be seen as the equivalent of "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back." I'm really not happy with the tale they spun for this sequel, however, and while I'm giving Bungie the benefit of the doubt, I just don't see how they'll pull off a great Halo 3 story considering the direction they set here. Oh, and do be sure to finish the closing credits (hey, they're fun, and you'll get a kick out of seeing the different celebrities who provided their voice talents even to grunts in the game, like Michelle Rodriguez and Orlando Bloom) because there's an epilogue of sorts in the form of a cutscene involving someone very familiar ...

So, yeah, maybe Bungie can pull it off. It's not like the game is the equivalent of "Star Wars: Episode Two—Attack of the Clones." But right now, the Halo trilogy is looking a lot less like Lord of the Rings—and more like The Matrix series.

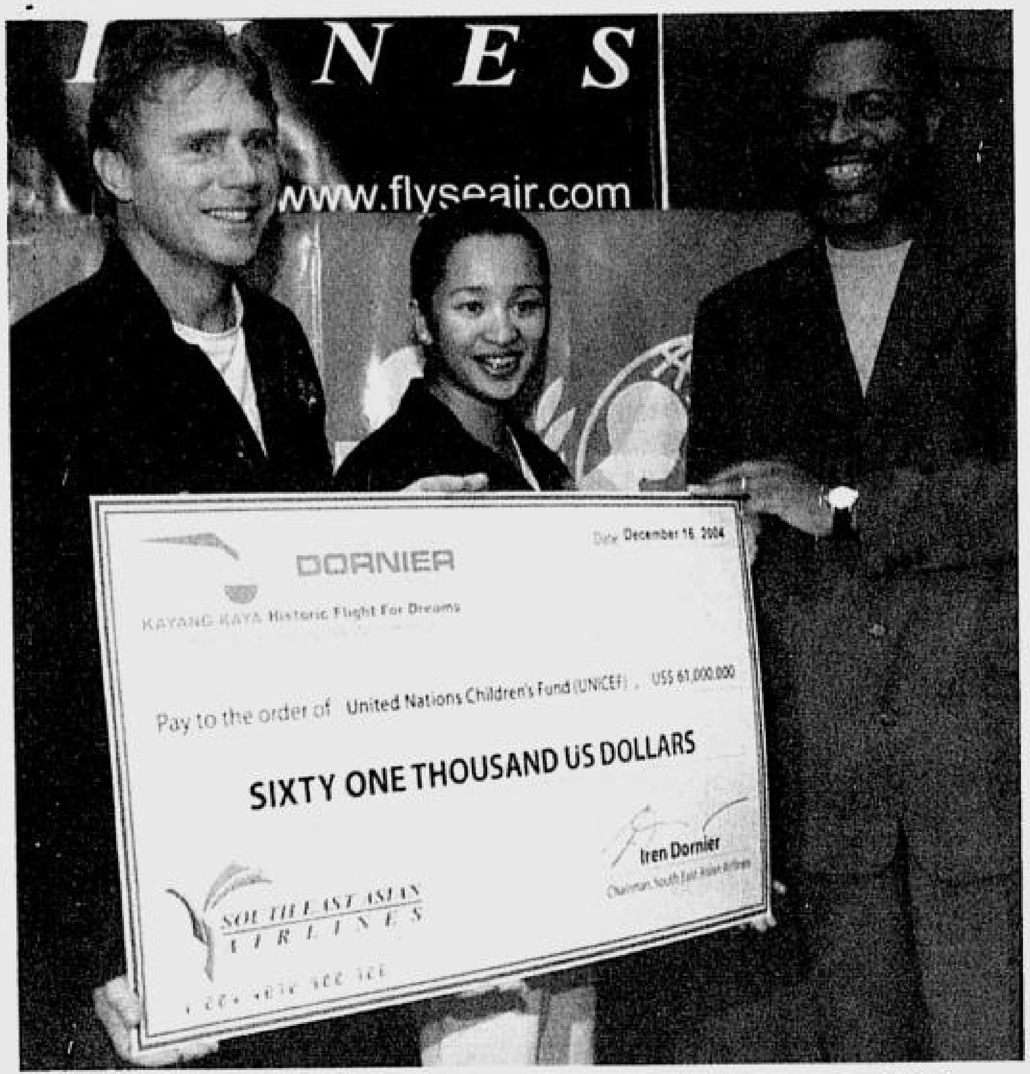
Please Microsoft, Bungie, don't do that to Master Chief.



MASTER Chief has seen quite some action since the first Halo, and he's back for more.

BUSINESS Monday
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

They raise funds for RP kids by pursuing a dream


NES
www.flyseair.com
DORNIER
Date December 16, 2004
KAYANG-KAYA Historic Flight For Dreams
Pay to the order of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) US$ 61,000.000
SIXTY ONE THOUSAND US DOLLARS
Iren Dornier
Chairman, South East Asian Airlines
SOUTH EAST ASIAN AIRLINES

CAPT. Iren Dornier, chair of South East Asian Airlines (SEAIR), turns over to Dr. Nicholas Alipui, country representative of UNICEF Philippines, a check for $61,000 from SEAIR.

RUDY ESPERAS

By Clarissa S. Batino

YOUNG, good-looking and talented Iren Dornier and Nikos Gitsis do not fit the profile of the average do-gooders.

The dynamic duo of Iren and Nokos, who founded South East Asian Airlines, are long-time buddies with common and diverse interests.

Both are pilots who decided to put up a small airline company nine years ago together with low-key Filipinos investors.

At about the same time that the two were putting up Seair, they also hatched a project, which for years remained a dream. It finally took off in April this year.

The two dreamed of restoring a vintage seaplane that was in a German museum and flying it all over the world to help promote Philippine tourism and accept donations in behalf of Filipino children.

"When we came up with the idea, I wasn't sure it was going to work. But since we believed in it so much, it did work. This is very challenging, exciting and fulfilling," tells Iren.

Nikos recalls that in the early '90s, he and Iren had no money to restore what is now known as Do-24ATT. He says they spent about $6 million to fix up the seaplane that was used during the 1930s.

The DO24s served as rescue planes during their prime and are said to have saved more than 11,000 people, Iren's grandfather, Claudius Dorniers, build the DO X in 1929, a unique plane that used open water as its landing strip.

The DO X was shown as the biggest boat plane that time and was the forerunner of the DO24 built in the '30s and '40s.

In April, Iren took off with the vintage amphibian that was his family's heritage and lived the dream he and Nikos envisioned.

Flight for Dreams

Dubbed as the Historical Flight for Dreams, the vintage amphibian has so far, landed in 31 destinations in 19 countries, allowing Iren and his group to raise $61,000 for the Filipino children during an eight-month world tour.

The funds, coursed through Unicef Philippines, are being raised solely to benefit Filipinos. Dornier and his crew turned over the check to Unicef Philippines last Thursday.

The second leg to complete a 50-country swing could raise several hundreds of thousand dollars more. Dornier says if it is up to him, it would be millions in dollars more.

The vintage Do-24ATT amphibian's next stop would be the United States, particularly New York, Washington and California.

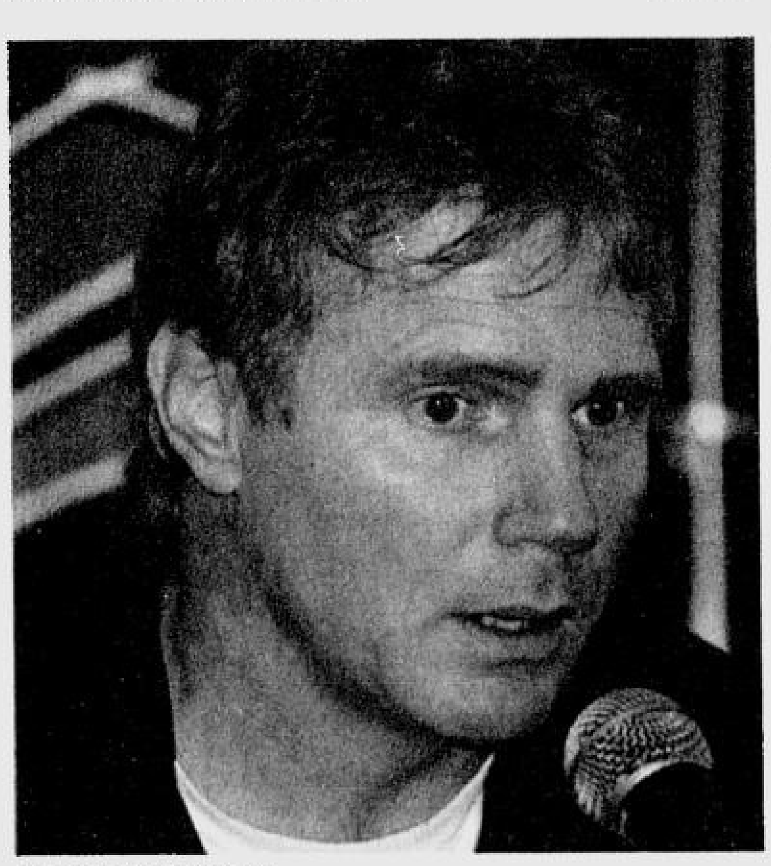
Nikos says Iren is actually hoping to raise as much as $5 million during the entire stretch.

"Originally, we were only looking to raise $50,000 during the whole tour. But we received very strong support and now the realistic goal is perhaps another $200,000 to $500,000 or as much as a half a million dollars," says Gitsis.

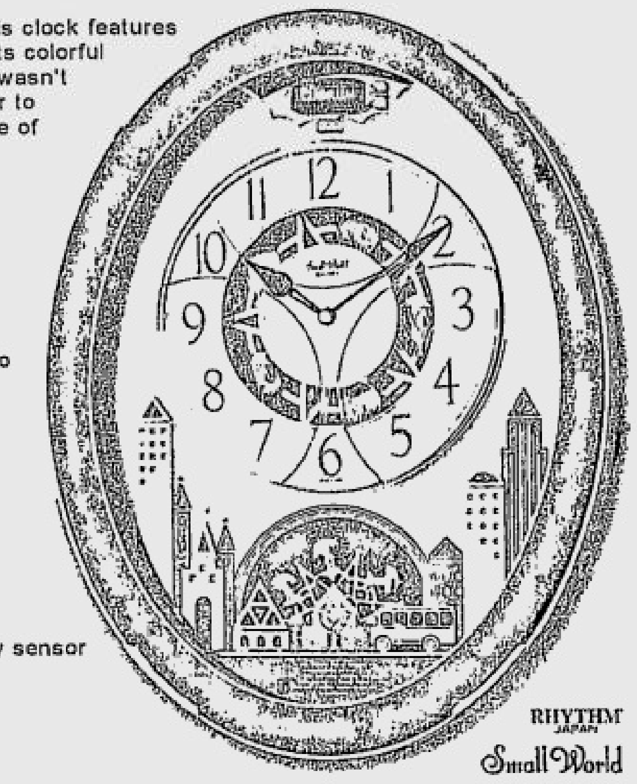
Counterpart funding

Unicef country representative Nicholas Alipui says his group would provide a counterpart

THEY/ B2-3



CAPT. IREN DORNIER



KARAKURI

As a member of the Incredible Timecracker series, this clock features a three-part rotating face that is sure to amaze you. Its colorful design inpires a feeling of fun and whimsy. As if that wasn't enough, the face splits into three sections on the hour to reveal dancing hot air balloons that spin around to one of six contemporary DWS quality melodies.

Special Features:

Fun and whimsical

On the hour, the face splits into three sections to reveal dancing hot air balloons.

Plays 6 delightful melodies

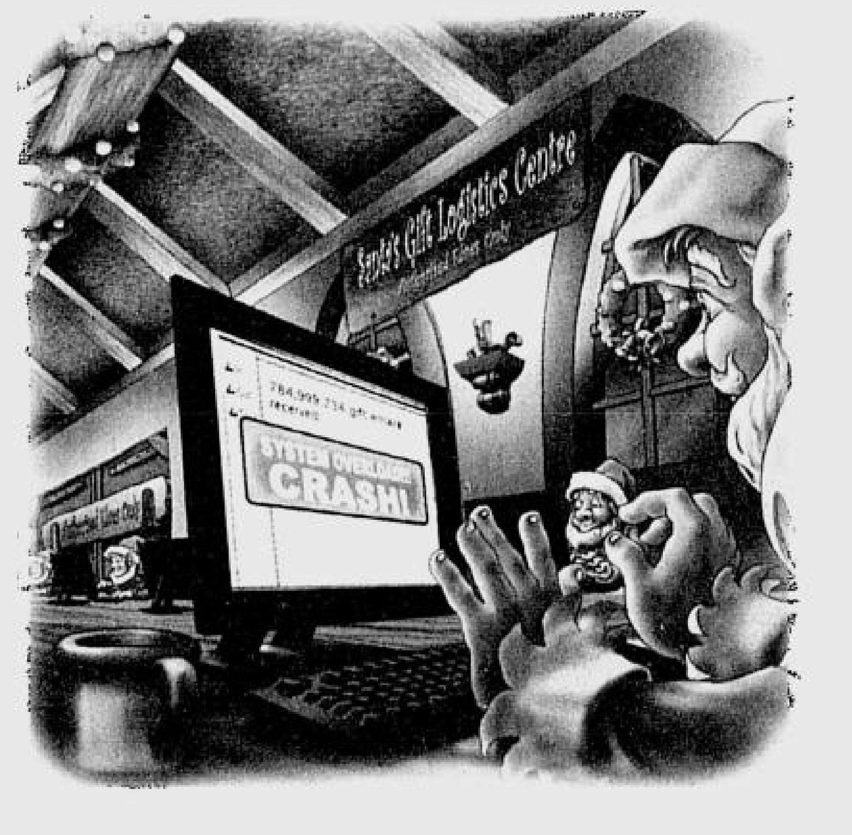
- Hourly melody
- 6 melodies (DWS sound)
- Automatic melody silencer by sensor
- Monitor switch
- Volume control switch

www.timeline.com.ph

Available at:

MONTRE | 101 The Podium
Doña Julia Vargas cor. ADB Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Madaluyong City
Phone: (632) 687-3077

Also available at NoCurfew stores:
Shangri-La Plaza Mall (02) 634-2160 • New Farmers Plaza (02) 421-9189 • SM City Manila (02) 522-6087
Market! Market! (02) 886-6090 • SM City Marilao (044) 933-2135 • SM City Pampanga (045) 963-3721
SM City Batangas (043) 722-2578 • SM City Iloilo (033) 320-8554 • SM City Davao (082) 297-3588
SM City Cagayan de Oro (088) 859-1193



IBM recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional for Business.

Restore lost data at the touch of a button. The holidays are around the corner and your PC's overloaded with "things to do" lists. Crash! Or perhaps the festive mood's made you let your guard down. And therefore vulnerable to virus attacks. Absolutely no problem when you have an IBM ThinkCentre desktop. Just press the blue button and a "toolkit" with system information, diagnostics and recovery options comes to rescue your saved data. Only an IBM ThinkCentre desktop lets you get help via the web even when your operating system's down. IBM ThinkCentre desktops with Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor with HT Technology. This Christmas, go to work with a feeling of confidence.

How's that for joyous tidings?

Rescue and Recovery.
Only o ThinkCentre

Distinctive Innovation
Distinctive IBM Innovations:
IBM Rescue and Recovery™
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery

IBM ThinkCentre S50
Our smallest desktop
System Feature
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 530 with HT Technology
Processor speed 3.0e GHz
800 MHz FSB
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB DDR PC2700
40GB hard drive
24x CD-ROM
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
17" CRT Monitor
Express Price PhP53,500† Nav Code 80862BA

IBM ThinkCentre A50
System Feature
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 865G
Processor speed 2.8E
800 MHz FSB
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB DDR PC2700
40GB hard drive
CD-ROM, Ethernet
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
17" CRT Monitor
Express Price PhP51,150† Nav Code 8175PAM

IBM ThinkCentre A50
System Feature
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor
Processor speed 2.8GHz
400 MHz FSB
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB DDR PC2700
40GB hard drive
CD-ROM
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
17" CRT Monitor
Express Price PhP47,995† Nav Code 817513A

IBM ThinkCentre A50
System Feature
Intel® Celeron® Processor 2.53eGHz
533 MHz FSB
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB DDR PC2700
40GB hard drive
CD-ROM
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
17" CRT Monitor
Express Price PhP40,550† Nav Code 8175LAB

IBM ThinkCentre A50
System Feature
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 2.8GHz
400 MHz FSB
Disk Operating System
128MB DDR PC2700
40GB hard drive
CD-ROM, Ethernet LAN
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
17" CRT Monitor
Express Price PhP38,695† Nav Code 81751QA

IBM

995 2426 | direct@ph.ibm.com
1 800 1888 1426 | ibm.com/ph/thinkholiday
Monday to Saturday 9am - 6pm and Sunday 9am - 3pm

IBM Partners: Advance Solutions, Inc • ATP Peripherals Phils., Inc • Asus International, Inc. • Columbia Technologies, Inc • E-IT Solutions Corporation • Information Products, Corp • MG Business Systems, Inc. • Micro Image Company, Ltd • Micro Pacific Technologies Co., Ltd • Microbase, Inc • Microcircuits Corporation • Microphase Enterprise Company • Northgate Technologies, Inc. • PC Craft Computer • Productivity Tech Services, Inc. • Questronix Corporation • Systems & Plan Integrator & Dev't Company • Valueline Systems & Solutions Corporation • Virtuality Information Technology Systems • Zenshin Systems Corporation
Blue Shop Value Partners: ABC Computers Co., Inc. • Accent Micro Products, Inc • Electroworld Office Systems • Silicon Valley Computer Center • TCA-Tech Alliance • Villman Computer Systems, Inc

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Recipients of 2004 Aga Khan architecture awards announced

NEW DELHI, India—At the historical Humayun's Tomb, His Highness the Aga Khan, hereditary spiritual leader (Imam) of the Shia Ismaili Muslims and founder of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) together with India's Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh recently announced the seven recipients of the 2004 Aga Khan Award for Architecture. The announcement marked the completion of the ninth cycle of the program. The Award, which has a triennial prize fund of $500,000, is the world's largest architectural award.

The seven projects selected by the 2004 Award Master Jury are: Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt; Primary School, Gando, Burkina Faso; Sandbag Shelter Prototypes, various locations; Restoration of Al-Abbas Mosque, Asnaf, Yemen; Old City of Jerusalem Revitalisation Programme, Jerusalem; B2 House, Ayvacýk, Turkey; and Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

During his speech at the award ceremony, the Aga Khan remarked on the appropriateness of India as the venue for the event, given its rich cultural heritage and pluralistic traditions. "Here, many cultures have maintained their distinct identities while combining and co-operating to create something even greater the dynamic and vibrant India of the modern world. This is also a country where the struggle for social justice and improved quality of life has made tremendous strides over many decades through the continuous efforts of governments and civil society," he said.

The Aga Khan emphasized that the Award for Architecture was recognition of the work of architects and their clients, builders-large and small, governments, planners, international organizations, granting agencies, village organizations and individuals, all of whom were collectively responsible for the creation of a humane, and socially supportive built environment that was important to the quality of life of people.

Praising the Aga Khan for the work done in restoring historical monuments, the Prime Minister said this had been an instructive example in finding new and creative solutions to the age-old problem of allocating scarce resources in a developing country to the preservation of heritage. "I hope that more public-private partnerships can be evolved to maintain and restore the monuments of our ancestors, which often lie in neglected condition in our cities and towns," he said.

During the current cycle of the Award, 378 projects were presented for consideration, and 23 were reviewed on site by outside experts. An independent Master Jury selected seven Award recipients that are notable for having attained the highest international standards of architectural excellence, while reflecting the values of the primarily Muslim societies the projects are intended to serve.

Acknowledging that the Award had come a long way since its inception in 1977, the Aga Khan nonetheless expressed concern over numerous aspects that required further attention. Quality housing remains the most essential need for societies everywhere, both in rural and urban environments; industrial facilities and workplaces are not at a level of excellence that makes them exceptional; rapidly expanding urban centers throughout the world lack public parks and open urban spaces; problems of transport, congestion and pollution have too few solutions emerging; and the growth of slums, the consequence of the relentless forces of urbanization, has not been stopped or even slowed down, he elaborated.

"These issues are not exclusive to the Muslim world" ended the Aga Khan. "The non-Muslim world struggles equally with explosive population growth, poverty, environmental degradation, exodus from rural areas, globalization and the impact on cultural identity of new forms of media" he added.

St. John's HS '79 leads homecoming

ON SUNDAY, Dec. 26, all roads lead to St. John's Institute for "D Ultim8 Party Myx", the grand alumni homecoming hosted by high school class '79. The Silver Jubilarians are leaving no stone unturned to ensure this year to be the party of all campus parties, the homecoming like no other.

An instant millionaire will emerge from a raffle draw during the homecoming. Aside from the P1-million jackpot, other exciting prizes include P100,000 and P50,000 in cold cash. Tickets are available at St. John's Institute, Shantung Commercial, JM Glass, TPY Lending Investors, New Hope Commercial and AX Currency Exchange.

Registration starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by cocktails-dinner at 7:30 p.m. An invitational affair, all alumni worldwide and their families are invited to savor and witness an exciting evening of music, laughter, and nostalgia. Alumni are encouraged to come in Retro attire, with the best male and female guests receiving surprise gifts.

Highlights include a comedy act by comedienne Mitch Valdes, and live bands to play Retro music of the good old days. First-rate director Kokoy Jimenez will be at the helm of the show as sought-after lights-and-sounds specialist Ed Garcia provides the spectacular ambience. Manila's live-bands impresario Ricky Trinidad handpicks the live bands for everyone's enjoyment.

A Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, Dec. 23 at the Queen of Peace Church. A motorcade immediately follows to kick-off the grand homecoming and gets the whole city excited for Bacolod's grandest of homecomings. See you all there.

NESTLÉ PRODUCT SAMPLING AT 25TH MIBF

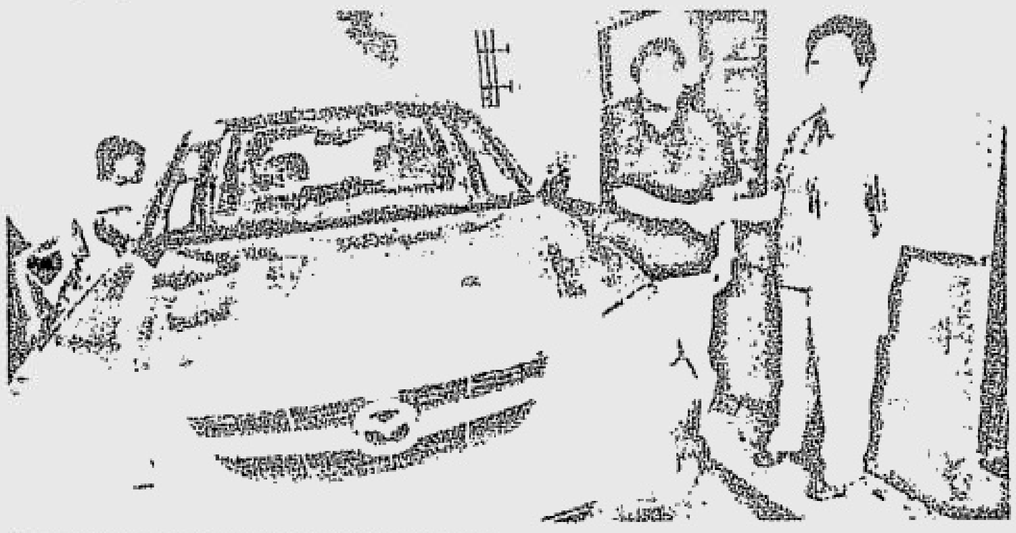
Participants of the 25th Manila International Book Fair enjoyed free cups of Nescafé Ice Vanilla, the café-style iced coffee and Nestlé Pink Lemonade, the healthy Nestlé Lemonade with a refreshing twist of pomelo. Like these book enthusiasts, you can savor these treats anytime at Café Nescafé outlets at Robinsons Galleria, the Power Plant Mall, Robinsons Place, Glorietta 3, Naia Terminal 2 and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. The sampling at the book fair conducted by the Education Channel verifies Nestlé FoodServices as the total solutions provider.

PRINCE ANDREW GRACES SHOWROOM LAUNCH

Jaguar-Land Rover Philippines Inc (LRPhils) recently inaugurated in grand fashion its second showroom along ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. On display at the showroom are the numerous variants of the Land Rover brand such as the recently launched Discovery 3 and the sporty Jaguar X-Type 3.0. Along with VIPs from the media, business sector and the diplomatic corps that attended the event, the presence of HRH Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, UK special representative for trade and investment, added glitz and glamour. Shown presenting a commemorative plaque to the Prince (right) is Wellington Soong, chair and president of LRPhils.

BPI INITIATES SUPPORT FOR SMES

'Show Me, Teach Me, SME-Empowering Entrepreneurs', a learning program on basic financial and credit management, was recently launched in Davao City. Aimed to strengthen the organizational capabilities of SMEs, the two-pronged intervention involves lectures and handholding both carried out by BPI and BPI Family Savings Bank employee-volunteers together with their partner-entrepreneurs. Developed by BPI Foundation Inc, the undertaking will also be conducted in different areas of the country, namely, Dagupan, Naga City, Iloilo and Metro Manila. Shown, from left, during the initial run and press conference in Davao City are BPI Foundation executive director Veronica Tapia-Merk, BPI Foundation program manager My G. Almogino, BPI corporate banking assistant vice president Antonia N. Bacabac and BPI Family Savings Bank-Davao assistant vice president Diane I. Silva.



'TICKET TO RIDE' PROMO WINNER

Erwin San Miguel of Batangas City recently won the McDonald's Drive Thru 'Ticket to Ride' grand prize-a Mazda Tribute. McDonald's Drive Thru and Dial 8McDO Delivery Service launched the 'Ticket to Ride' promo wherein a customer who makes a minimum P100 purchase with any Coke product gets a free game card and a chance to win instant prizes such as McDonald's Sundae Cone, Ambi Pur Car Perfume, Coke Tumbler, wheel balancing and tire rotation services from selected Good Year Servitek and Tyre Pro outlets, and P25 worth of gas from Petron by simply scratching the game card. Tita Alabao, owner-operator of McDonald's Batangas, and the rest of the Batangueños celebrate with Erwin San Miguel for winning McDonald's coveted grand prize.

ProductFILES

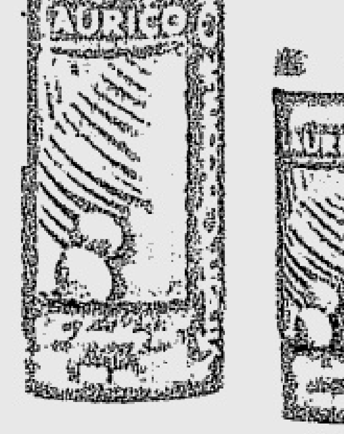
Christmas Match

THIS Christmas, give a gift to you and your mate the perfect pair of sweating out socks Thorlos socks. Thorlos socks is not only for a "he-she" match pair of exercise socks brand, it also shows how much you care for your individual foot health. Thorlos ensure blisters, calluses and bunions-free feet even for the most rigid sweating-out or sports. This imported brand of socks that is the recipient of the United States "golden standard" for socks is labeled under specific socks for sports such as basketball, golf, running, light running, lightweight running, men's fitness, walking, tennis, women's fitness, dress and casual wear.

Thorlo
Thorlo
Thorlo

Thorlos is exclusively available at Rustan's, Planet Sports, Royal Sporting House, Chris Sports, Athlete's Foot and Toby's. The socks are priced at P599.75. Thorlos brand of socks is distributed by Elsons Enterprise Inc. For more information, call 671-9931 to 34, or logon to www.elson-thorlo.com.

Natural germ fighter now available



LAURICO Virgin Coconut Oil, containing lauric acid, a natural germ fighter, is now on sale at many drugstores.

Lauric acid is a medium chain fatty acid that treats and prevents a wide assortment of infections, ranging from flu to AIDS.

Makers of Laurico Virgin Coconut Oil said laboratory tests had shown that the MCFA found in Laurico is effective in destroying viruses that cause influenza, measles, herpes and hepatitis C. It eradicates bacteria that cause ulcers, urinary tract infections, meningitis and gonorrhea.

The makers said it kills fungi and yeast that cause ringworm, candida and thrush. The MCFA kills invading organisms without causing any harm to human tissues, they said.

Bits & Clips

'Disney on Ice'

THE BELOVED Disney Princesses come together in one sparkling spectacular! "Disney on Ice" once again waves its magic wand to bring a brand-new, awe-inspiring magical adventure to Manila. "Disney on Ice" presents "Princess Classics" features Cinderella, Jasmine, Ariel, Sleeping Beauty, Belle, Mulan and Snow White-as they skate into Araneta Coliseum in Araneta Center, Quezon City from Dec. 25 to Jan. 3. For the first time ever, "Disney on Ice" combines exceptional moments from Disney's "Cinderella", "Aladdin", "The Little Mermaid", "Sleeping Beauty", "Beauty and the Beast", "Mulan" and "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" in one captivating, star-filled adventure for all ages. Tickets are now available at the Araneta Center TicketNet office. For more details, log on to www.disneyonice.com.

Acer's Christmas promo

THIS Holiday season, Acer, one of the world's leading computer brands, launches its first Christmas promo dubbed "Acer Xmas Star 0% Promo". The promo aims to sizzle the market with the brand's exciting new products as it offers interest-free, selected PC star products at 12 or 6 months installment payments on any BPI, Citibank, Equitable PCI, SB Card and Standard Chartered credit cards. Customers who opt to pay in cash receive exciting freebies such as: overnight hotel accommodation for two at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel; three-day, two-night hotel accommodation for two also at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel; a Lexmark Z515 Printer; or Rustan's gift certificates worth P500 or P3,000. The "Acer Xmas Star 0% Promo" runs until Dec. 31 only. Visit any participating Acer Consumer Partner for more details.

Christmas bazaar

THE MANUEL P. Manahan Foundation will be launching a 2-week fund-raising activity called "PX Meets Pinoy Bazaar: Christmas Retail/Wholesale Summit" to be held at the Mega Trade Hall 3 from Dec. 21 to Jan. 2. "PX Meets Pinoy Bazaar" showcases a medley of imported and local goods of different retailers and manufacturers. For interested parties, call Lhen at 823-2969 or 0919-5670063. More than just shopping, the bazaar, in partnership with the New Life Christian Fellowship, is geared towards benefiting its target beneficiaries this Christmas-up to 5,000 underprivileged children. Daily, for 13 days, 400 different kids will be having the time of their lives shopping for toys, shoes, clothes, eating to their hearts' content, enjoying all the gifts and freebies at the "PX Meets Pinoy Bazaar", according to bazaar organizer Joji Manahan.

STB-P, LAC partnership in promo

SINGAPORE Tourism Board-Philippines (STB-P) is offering Filipino residents another exciting opportunity to win trips to Singapore. This time, together with partners Living Asia Channel (LAC), there will be a total of 8 trips to be won with accommodation provided for a 4-day/3-night stay. The contest is open to all residents of the Philippines who have access to LAC (available only for Home, Destiny and Dream Cable) and the Internet. Interested contestants may register in the promo by logging onto livingasiachannel.net. Deadline for joining the raffle is on Feb. 20, 12 midnight. The next monthly draws will be on Jan. 11 and Feb. 22. The grand draw is on March 8. For more information, call STB-P at 813-0946.

Moving out of crisis

MAPping THE FUTURE

Edward L. Fereira

THE PHILIPPINES has never run out of innovative ideas to move the country out of crisis and finally put the country back on track. Actually, we have more than enough ideas.

We, Filipinos, are very, very good at preparing plans and roadmaps toward sustainable and equitable progress. We have the IQ to move this country forward.

Unfortunately, however, we lack XQ which refers to execution or implementation.

One problem, I think, is that many honest, hard-working and well-educated members of the private sector refuse to serve the country because of the perception that the government is a snake pit that victimizes even the well-intentioned ones.

Another problem, I believe, is the lack of motivation of existing government personnel to excel in their respective positions.

I don't know why, but one reason might be the almost similar benefits being enjoyed by all government employees, whether outstanding performers or not.

Like in the private sector, the government must have the professionalism to reward good performers and get rid of the bad eggs, so that the whole basket of public servants will not be contaminated.

In short, the government must have the political will to retain the right people in the right positions and get rid of the wrong ones.

One other problem, I guess, is "too much" democracy. The type of democracy that we are enjoying is actually doing us more harm than good.

I am not an expert on this, but I think a "responsible" democracy will enable our country to move forward at an accelerated pace. I am not saying that what we need is a dictatorship. But we heed the political will of a dictator at this time.

"What I did promise was that my term would be the irreversible trend."—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

This quote captures the essence of the first of a series of books to be printed by the Philippine Information Agency to chronicle the Arroyo Administration's policy statements and pronouncements.

The first book entitled "Mandate for Change," which focused on the President's 10-Point Legacy Program, is a good tool to educate and enlighten the public on how every individual can contribute to economic progress and become more deeply involved in nation building.

In her inaugural address as the 14th President of the Republic of the Philippines, President Arroyo stressed that "Our unity as a people will be defined by a strong vision for the nation built on common values of hard work, shared sacrifice and love of country. To achieve a united country, we need to squarely face the deep divisions of our nation. Not only the truth but also the solution. That solution must engage all segments of society in a new government of political reform and economic change."

What can we, in the business community, do then to help the Arroyo Administration achieve its 10-point program?

I believe that the members of the business community should help the government foster an entrepreneurial spirit among Filipinos to jumpstart our laggard economy.

The 10-point program of the government has prioritized the three-fold increase in the lending to micro, small and medium enterprises, which will create more employment opportunities and will certainly pump-prime the economy.

As I pointed out in my previous article, the Arroyo administration has to face this year a fiscal deficit of P312 billion (which is equivalent to 7 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product or GDP) and a public sector debt of P5.3 trillion (which translates to 137 percent of GDP).

The budget deficit is certainly the country's most pressing problem. With the gargantuan task of addressing this chronic problem, the Arroyo administration needs the cooperation of all sectors of society to create a fiscally stronger government that can create a positive environment that shall be conducive to business growth with greater security, better infrastructure, cheaper credit and more expansions in terms of operations, assistance, job generation, particularly in SME growth and overall entrepreneurship.

Even if the government will do everything right, it cannot improve the economy alone. It will need the support of the business sector, which must do its share. Business, being the engine of the economy, must therefore work in harmony with the government.

We businessmen cannot afford to remain sitting down and just wait for good things to happen. We must do our humble share in moving our country out of crisis.

More important, we must, as a nation, collectively ensure that these dire developments does not happen again—especially for the sake of our children, and children's children.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is Philippine consul-general to Republic of Kazakhstan, president and CEO of Ferycor International Management Group Inc., national president of Philippine Movement for Good Governance or PHILMO...GO!GO!, and immediate past president of the MAP. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

They raise . . .

From page B2-1

funding that would effectively double any contributions from the private sector.

He notes the bulk of the Unicef funds in the country were being allocated to early childhood care and putting in child-friendly programs in schools especially in Mindanao, Manila, Cebu, Quezon City and Pasay.

The two programs, he says, were meant to arm preschool kids with the skills before they actually start school.

Unicef is using donations plus its own funds to put up libraries, give away educational toys, train teachers, and install clean toilets and even clean water in poor communities.

Iren and Nikos flew together with Seair crew Joseph Bustamante, Christian Kerr, Ferdinand Yco, aircraft mechanic Paulo Falalila and flight attendant Lovenea Burcer.

The group had flown and landed in several points in Asia and Europe, including Iren's hometown by Lake of Constance, located on the borders of Switzerland, Germany and Austria.

Iren started Seair with three planes. These are aircraft that he originally meant to service routes in Thailand but some twist of fortune brought him and Nikos to Palawan in the Philippines.

Iren says he fell in love with Palawan that he tried to buy a resort the next day. After that, he decided to operate the planes in the Philippines.

Seair now has nine aircraft and 200 employees. The company is girding for an expansion next year that includes the lease of two more airplanes and flight to new routes.

PSBank

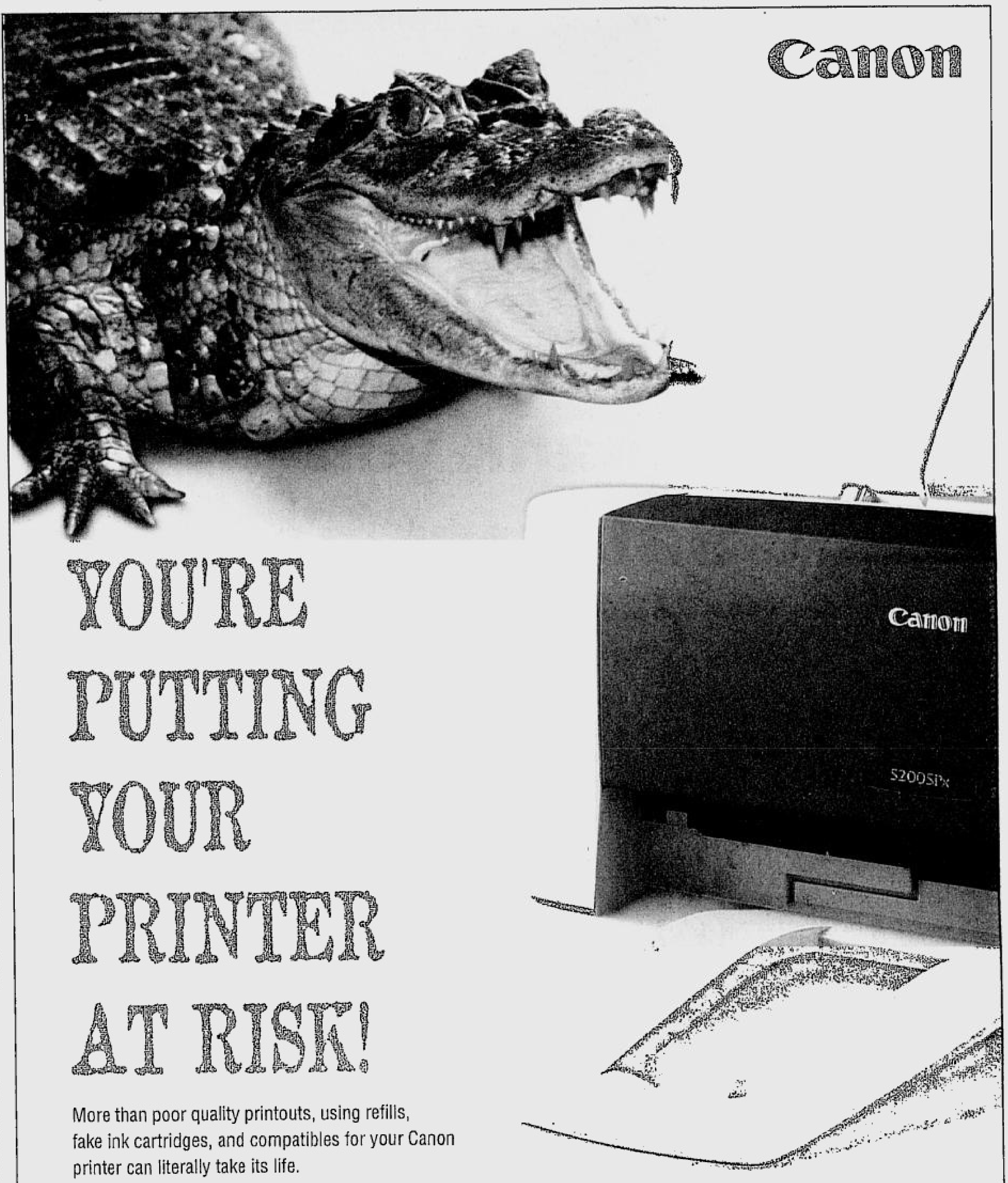
Peso TIME DEPOSIT

Deposit Amount (in pesos)	Interest Rate (%)			
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
100,000 - 499,999	5.750	6.500	6.750	7.250
500,000 - 999,999	6.500	7.250	7.500	7.750
1.0MM - 4,999,999	7.125	7.500	7.750	8.000
5.0MM - 9,999,999	7.250	7.750	8.000	8.250
10 million and up	7.500	8.250	8.250	8.500

Quoted rates are subject to change without prior notice.
Rates are on per annum basis and net of documentary stamp taxes.
Interest rates for other terms also available.

Visit any of our 139 PSBank Branches nationwide.

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00

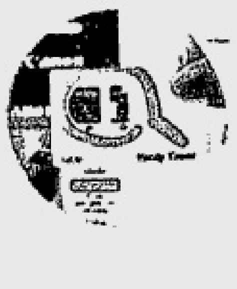


More than poor quality printouts, using refills, fake ink cartridges, and compatibles for your Canon printer can literally take its life.

Using refills, fakes and compatibles void your printer's warranty.

Refills refer to the ink used to "refill" Canon cartridges. While ink cartridges that illegally use the Canon brand are called fake. On the other hand, compatibles are other brands of ink cartridges used in a Canon printer. Experts consider all three kinds of ink cartridges hazardous and may be the main cause of breakdown of Canon printers.

So if you think you're saving money by purchasing refills, fake ink cartridges, and compatibles, think again. You'll pay dearly with costly repairs and sacrifice the life of your printer itself.



To be sure that you got genuine Canon Inks, use the Canon Handy Viewer to look at the Canon Security Sticker —the left hole should be black, while the right hole should contain the Canon logo.

USE ONLY GENUINE CANON CONSUMABLES

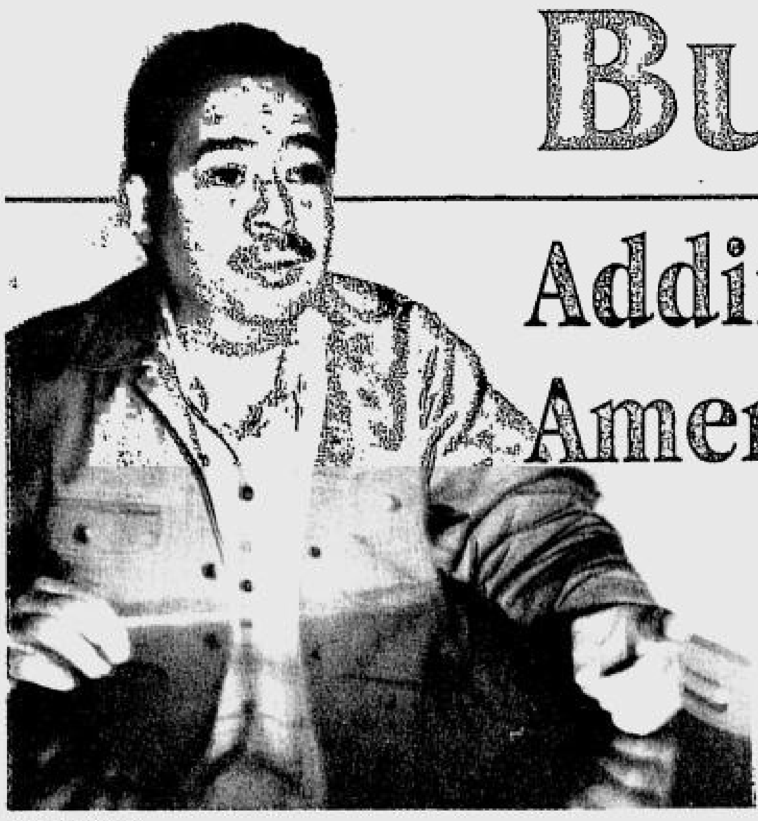
South & Southeast Asia Regional Headquarters:

Canon Singapore Pte Ltd 1 HarbourFront Avenue, #04-01, Keppel Bay Tower, Singapore 098632 www.canon-asia.com

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City • Tels.: 812-6047 / 812-6076 to 79 / 892-6449 • Fax: 810-9797
E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

BUSINESS*Monday*

Adding a twist to a former American Santa Claus project



ALQUIROS

ALQUIROS dressed in his jolly red suit

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Indigent children in this city always looked forward to the imported American apples and chocolates that went into their goody bags every Christmas, back when the United States military ran Camp John Hay.

Caucasian Santas used to visit interior Baguio villages every December, when the former Camp John Hay Air Station activated Share-A-Joy, a benefit program devoted to poor Baguio children.

Camp John Hay's current custodian, the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco), is continuing this tradition. But some of the firm's Baguio-based officials are taking the Share-A-Joy goody bag into uncharted territories.

Months before Christmas, CJHDevco piloted a "healing camp" inside the Camp John Hay forest areas, where child rights advocates of Ebgan Inc. and psychologists of the Child and Family Services Philippines Inc. (CFSPI) brought 80 abused children for a different counseling environment.

The clinical results-of this special summer camp were positive.

"Children responded well to counseling when they were exposed to nature and we are enlightened by this results. This means Share-A-Joy could offer children something more meaningful than just providing them American chocolates," says Adam Borja, one of the program's coordinators.

It is also the direction CJHDevco wants to take Share-A-Joy, a program started by Col. John Hightower, the Camp John Hay Air Station base commander in 1978, said Frederico Alquiros, Share-A-Joy Foundation chair.

Hightower and members of Baguio's business community organized base firemen, John Hay marine and air force security personnel and other US military officials into a "Santa crew," Alquiros says.

Each of the US officials wore Santa Claus outfits. Many entered the city's villages aboard the base's shiny red fire trucks.

"Children's ears were perked up when they hear the fire truck bells ringing by December. They always anticipated the trucks because it carried American PX," Alquiros says.

Most of the base's beneficiaries came from villages surrounding Camp John Hay, but towards 1991, when the US bases finally pulled out of the Philippines, the Americans were slowly farming out Christmas bags to poorer Baguio villages.

That has become another American legacy to a city built by the United States colonial government in 1909, Alquiros says.

"But it spoiled Baguio. The city was always the beneficiary of things American. Kids always had the Christmas "staple of apples and chocolates, because we were near the base," Borja says.

"Of course nowadays, apples and chocolates are very accessible, and that had reduced the luster of Share-A-Joy (after the Americans left us)," Alquiros says.

There are moments when CJHDevco personnel links the US pullout to the hostility CJHDevco receives from some Baguio sectors when it won the lease to convert the former US facility into a multimillion-peso tourism estate, he says.

Alquiros is chief operating officer of the Camp John Hay Hotels Inc.

When the Philippine Tourism Authority was tasked to manage Camp John Hay in 1991, "Share-A-Joy" was touted as the government's premier social development project here.

Silverio dela Cruz, the government-appointed Camp John Hay general manager at the time, convinced Baguio businessmen like Avmir Pangilinan, Metrobank vice president; restaurateur Miguel Anton; civic leader Julie Cabato; Judge Edilberto Claravall; and Teresita de Guzman, general manager of the Baguio Water District, to form the Share-A-Joy Foundation on Oct. 9, 1998.

"Communities were still looking forward to a white Santa granting them gifts and that was difficult for a government-led program with its meager resources," Borja says.

In 2003, Share-A-Joy was operating on no more than a P60,000 budget, he said. When CJHDevco took over the project, it promptly raised P300,000 from benefit shows such as the recent Cecille Licad concert.

But Alquiros says Share-A-Joy needed to regain its community relevance by exploring a new project agenda that is "out of the box."

The summer camp for abused children gave Share-A-Joy its first strong "career shift," says Borja.

"We can now operate year round by offering Camp John Hay's forests and camping grounds to various child counseling projects," he says.

It also ushers in a new rationale for a proposed Camp John Hay Share-A-Joy Foundation that would be spun out of the project by 2005, Borja says.

The new foundation would explore environmental issues, health care projects and social development programs that will affect Baguio children, he says.

Merci
Danke
Gracias
Thank you
Salamat po

WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH'

2004, ANOTHER BANNER YEAR FOR ETELECARE. TO OUR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES, CLIENTS, BUSINESS PARTNERS AND INVESTORS, THANK YOU FOR HELPING US REACH THESE MILESTONES.

Grown to over 7,000 employees working in 11 call centers in the Philippines and the United States
eTelecare has become a bright spot of the Philippine economy. By growing our workforce, we have showcased the Filipino as the best and the brightest in the world.

2004 ICCM Best Outsourcer
For four straight years, ICCM, the most prestigious call center trade show, has awarded eTelecare as the Best Outsourcer, besting over 200 call centers worldwide. This makes eTelecare the world's most honored call center.

eTelecare CC4, Cebu City's biggest call center
Believing in the strong potential of Cebu as another hub of excellence, eTelecare built the largest call center in the city.

Acquisition of Phase 2
eTelecare, a Philippine home-grown call center, acquired Phase 2, one of the fastest growing and successful call centers in the U.S. This major step made eTelecare the largest Asia-based call center.

Industry leading employee satisfaction rating
eTelecare has received a very high employee satisfaction rating. Validated by an independent research firm, eTelecare has been rated as the industry leader in compensation and benefits.

Again, our deepest gratitude to all who have shared our vision of excellence. Thank you for being the unstoppable force behind the e mark.

etelecare
international

The world's most awarded and largest Asia-based call center

Manila Hubs
Call Center 1:
19/F-20/F Citibank Square
Eastwood City Cyber Park
Bagumbayan,Quezon City 1100
Tel: (02) 916-5670
Fax (02) 916-2200

Call Center 2:
12/F-17/F PBComm Tower
6795 Ayala Avenue
corner V.A. Rufino Street
Makati City 1200
Tel: (02) 580-5350
Fax: (02) 757-4727

Call Center 3:
20/F-22/F CyberOne Building
Eastwood City Cyber Park
Bagumbayan, Quezon City 1100
Tel: (02) 580-6500
Fax: (02) 687-4841
Recruiting Hotline: 580-6530

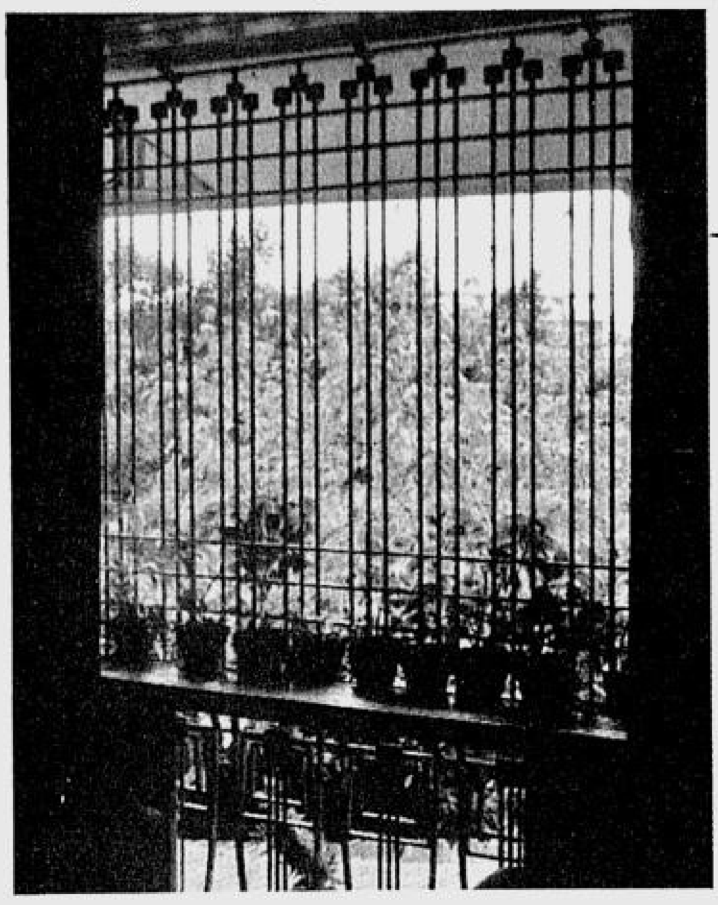
Cebu Hub
Call Center 4:
5/F-7/F PIPC Engineering & Sciences Building (ESB)
Asia Town IT Park, Salinas Drive
Lahug, Cebu City 6000
Tel: (032) 411-9010
Fax: (032) 415-8458
Recruiting Hotline: (032) 411-9021/9024/9030

LIFESTYLE

sms feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Subsection Editor **Lito B. Zulueta**

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU**
● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**



THE NAKPIL house on Calle Barbosa in Quiapo

ARROCEROS Forest Park, oasis in pollution-clogged Manila

Celebrating Manila

There is more to the city than ugly malls this Christmas

STOP malling. Give yourself a Christmas treat by experiencing the city. See it in a new light and enjoy its hidden surprises.

Discover that, under its gruff and grimy cover, Manila hides places of charm that offer a special quality of life. All it takes is an adventurous spirit and a bit of time to experience some of these places I would like to share with you as a holiday offering.

Discover the wealth of textures in Manila. Buy a copy of "Street Bound: Manila on Foot" by Josefina Manahan (Anvil Books, 2001). Follow her clearly mapped-out routes and detailed instructions. Do any of the 22 walking tours in the book to experience the secrets of Manila that wait to surprise you.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

Nening Manahan tells you where to go. Some places are Binondo; Blumentritt in San Juan; Cartimar in Pasay; the Kamuning Market, or the row of antique and curio shops on A. Mabini and M. H. del Pilar Streets in Ermita.

Let the book take you around the central Manila triangle by the Pasig, where the Metropolitan Theater, Arroceros Forest Park and the Mehan Garden are neighbors all fighting for survival.

From there, go north, cross the river to Quiapo and end your wandering at the all-steel San Sebastian Church.

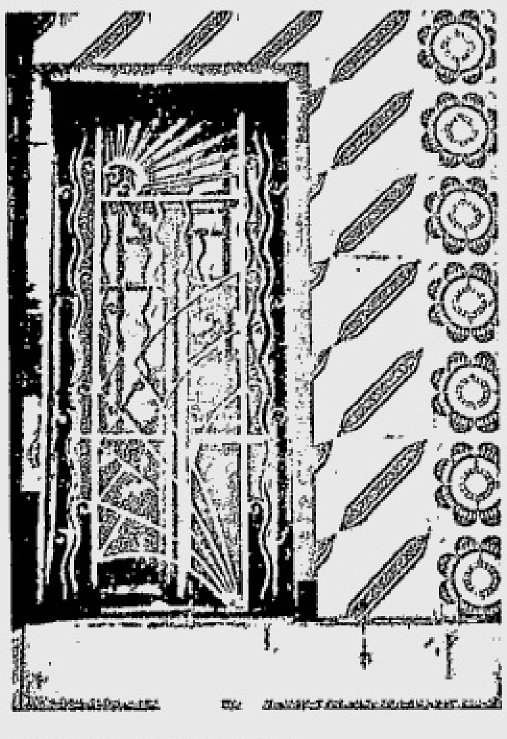
Another route from the Mehan Garden area goes southward, crossing Taft Avenue toward the National Museum Complex, Intramuros, Rizal Park, and the Manila Bay sunset. For each recommended location, she maps out short walks; meticulously points out what to see, buy, or eat; and the curiosities to gawk at.

Celdran's Manila tours

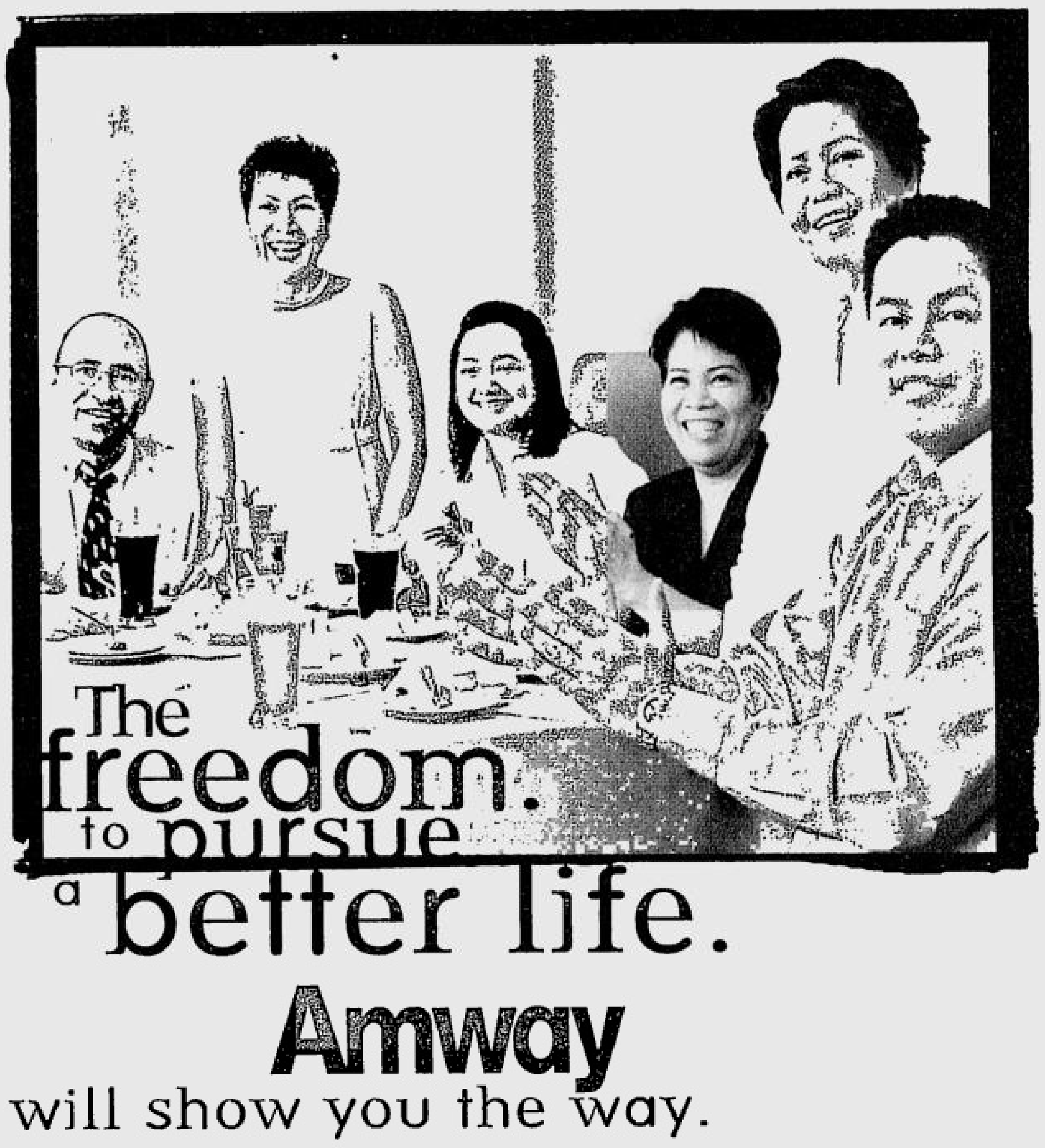
If you prefer to be guided through Manila, Carlos Celdran is the person to do it for you. He conducts lively walking tours around the older districts of Manila. His walks wander off main streets, take detours that poke around fascinating back roads and alleys around Escolta, Intramuros, Quiapo, Chinatown, and other inner city places.

Carlos' humor can be called irreverent, but he does give new life and interest to mothballed, stuffy urban heritage. Old buildings and historic districts take on a fascinating new dimension with him. Celdran's strong

CELEBRATING/ C7



METROPOLITAN Theater

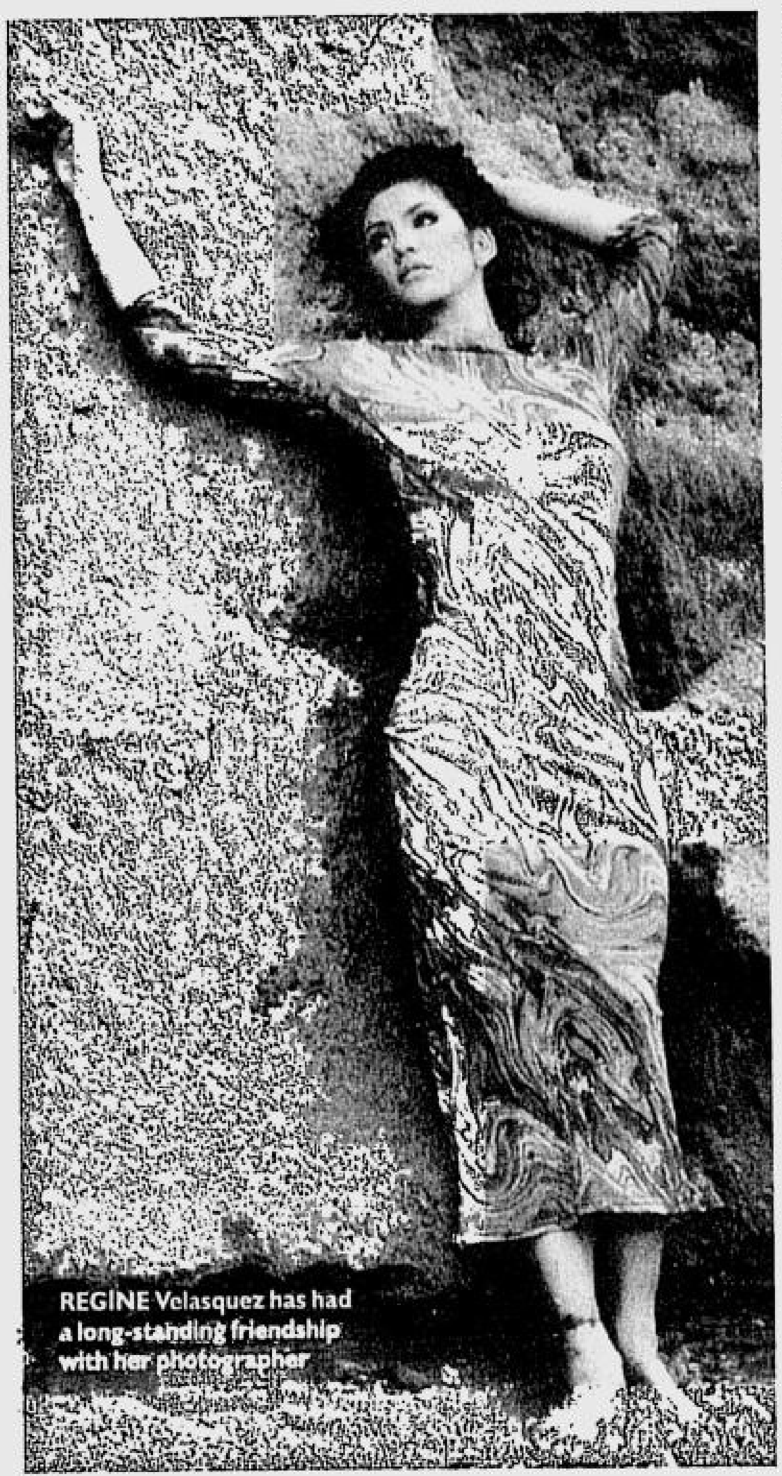


The freedom to pursue a better life.
Amway
will show you the way.

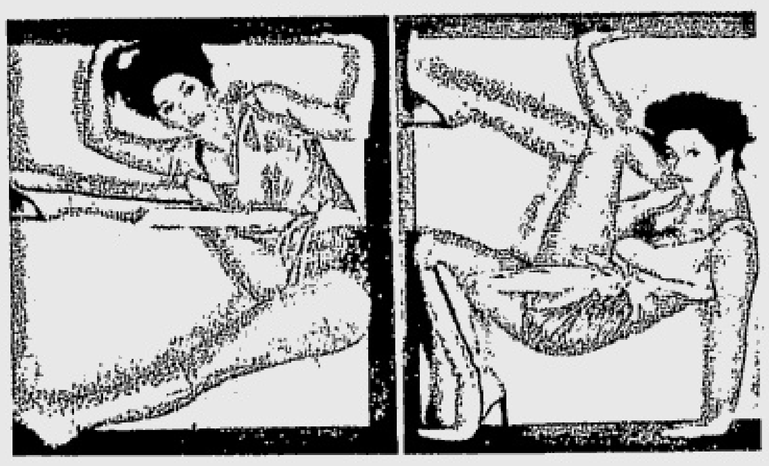
Amway is more than an income opportunity, a company, or products. It's about putting people in control of their lives. Linking them to others who share their goals, supporting them in their achievements, and connecting them to a better way of life. It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from. All that matters is that you desire to make life better for yourself and for others. Be an Independent Business Owner now. We will support you with the best quality products and recognition that will set you along the path to success. Call Amway at 633-AMWY (633-2699) for GMA or 1-800-1888-AMWY (1-800-1888-2699) toll-free for areas outside GMA.

Amway

HELPING PEOPLE LIVE BETTER LIVES.



REGINE Velasquez has had a long-standing friendship with her photographer



VELASQUEZ in various stages of glamorous dishabille

Regine Velasquez and Jun de Leon in book collaboration

THE VIVA Foundation for the Arts formally launched the book "Reigne" recently with the opening of the exhibit of photographs of singer Regine Velasquez taken by ace lensman Jun de Leon at The Podium.

"Reigne" is a collaborative effort between Velasquez and De Leon. The 200-page collection of photographs, many of which have never been seen before, covers five years in the life of the famous singer.

De Leon chronicled not only Regine's formal sittings for album covers or show posters but also many of her unguarded and daring moments, alone or with close friends.

"Reigne" retails at P950. It comes in a special gift box with a free CD of Velasquez singing "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" and the never-before-released "Misty Glass Window."

"Reigne" brings to fore a long-standing friendship between two volatile artists who are also known perfectionists.

The two instantly hit it off the first time he accepted the offer to take her photographs for one of her album covers. Since then, she has relied on De Leon for her photo requirements.

In return, she has become one of his valued subjects for whom he would go the extra mile to get that special image.

Velasquez is one of the country's most popular stars. She was honored last week with a Platinum Record Award for the album "Covers." She stars on the soap series "Forever in My Heart" for GMA 7 and scored another big success with her recent concert "Reigning Still" at the Araneta Coliseum.

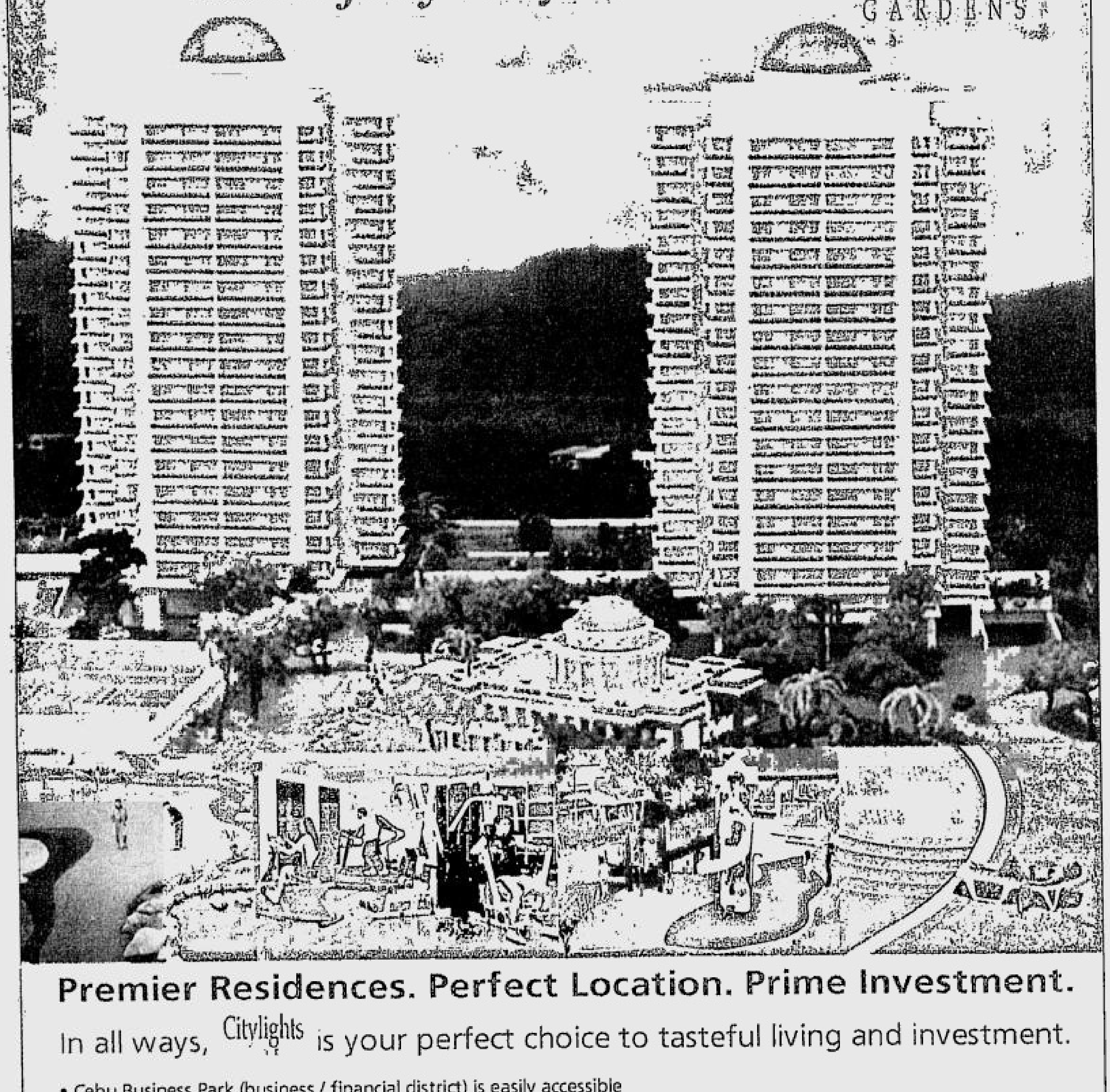
JUN DE LEON, lensman for the "Songbird"

De Leon has been a photographer for over 30 years. He has published five books of his works, among them "Viva Gold." He has also ventured into the movies with the short film "Waves of Echo."

"Reigne" is now available in leading book and music stores.

All the Good Things
In Life are coming together
Beautifully for you

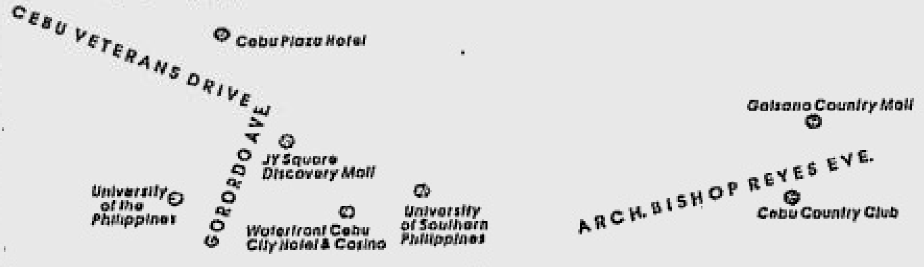
Citylights
GARDENS



Premier Residences. Perfect Location. Prime Investment.

In all ways, Citylights is your perfect choice to tasteful living and investment.

- Cebu Business Park (business / financial district) is easily accessible
- Shopping malls, educational institutions, country club and golf course located in the vicinity
- Panoramic view of the metropolis, Cebu Harbour, Mactan Island and the rugged terrain of Mt. Busay


Citylights
CEBU VETERANS DRIVE
Cebu Plaza Hotel
GORORDO AVE
JY Square Discovery Mall
University of the Philippines
Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino
University of Southern Philippines
Perpetual Succour Hospital
Ayala Center
Marriott Hotel
ARCH.BISHOP REYES EVE.
Gaisano Country Mall
Cebu Country Club

TOWERS 3 & 4
NOW OPEN
FOR RESERVATION

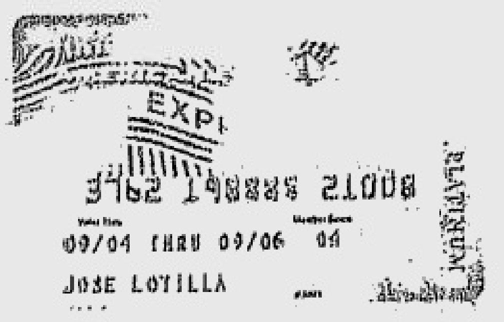
VISIT OUR NEW SHOW UNITS AT
VETERANS DRIVE, NIVEL HILLS, APAS,
CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 9 AM - 6 PM
TELEPHONE NO. (6332) 231-3060

Developer
SYNTECH PROPERTIES
Incorporated

HLURB L/S #10741

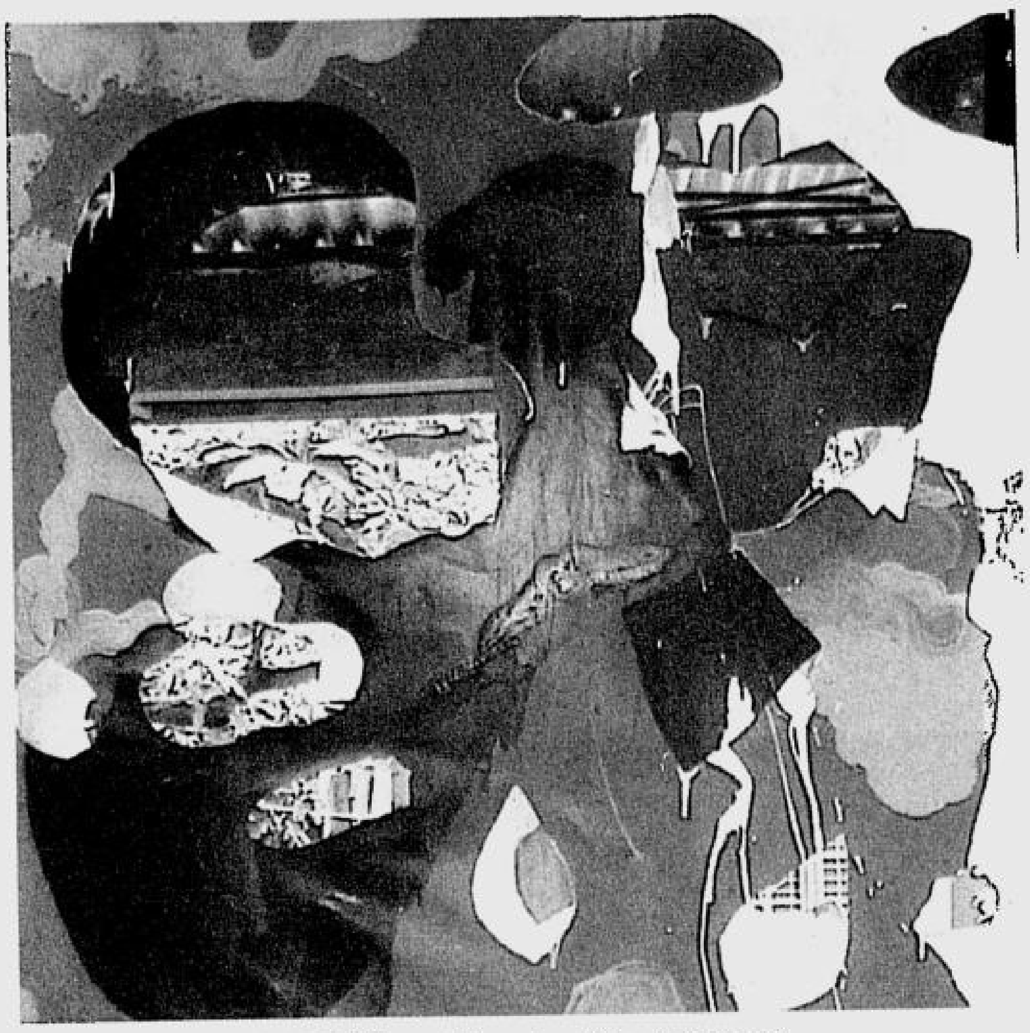
LUXURY
IN ANY
CURRENCY.
PAYABLE IN
PESOS.

Make purchases anywhere in the Philippines and the world, using any international currency – be it Yen, Euros, Dollars or others – but still enjoy the convenience of settling your accounts in Philippine Pesos. Only in the World of Platinum. Only when you become an American Express Peso Platinum Credit Cardmember.


EXP
3762 190888 21008
09/04 THRU 09/06 04
JOSE LOTILLA
PLATINUM

The World of Platinum Awaits

For more information, please call 840-6886 or visit
www.americanexpressbank.com.ph.



SANDRA Palomar and Trek Valdizno collaborate on "Terrain Games."

'Xmas Show' at Mag:net

MAG:NET Gallery is holding its annual "Xmas Show" at its Katipunan branch (Agcor Bldg, 335 Katipunan Ave. Loyola Heights, Quezon City).

The "Xmas Show" started last year. The connecting work between the first and second "Xmas Shows" is Gerry Tan's "TV Parol," a video installation displaying the image of a *parol* (Philippine Christmas lantern) encased in the confines of a television frame, a work that may well deconstruct popular perceptions of the holiday season as largely constructs of industry, myth and media in its references to the local giant broadcasting network's daily news show.

Roberto Chabet, meanwhile, will appropriate two seemingly disparate gallery components at opposite ends of the gallery: the Poet's Alcove and the toilet.

The Poet's Alcove is a white-washed niche designed as an exhibition space for literary works—poems, musings, stories and the like—positioned just beside the gallery entrance. The toilet, obviously, is a utilitarian space reserved for the most universal of functions.

Other works on display are by Ronald Achacoso, Mishka Adams, Augusto Albor, Juan Alcazaren, Poklong Anading, Bert Antonio, Alfredo Aquilizan, Amy Aragon, Felix Bacolor, Argie Bandoy, Reb Belleza, Pablo Biglang-awa, Benjie Cabangis, Norberto Carating, Lena Cobangbang, Louie Cordero, Aba Dalena, Antonio Daroy, Joy Dayrit, Pardo de Leon, Neil Doloricon, Rock Drilon, Jed Escueta, Patricia Eustaquio, James Haresco, Nilo Ilarde, Geraldine Javier, Romeo Lee, Andy Maluche, Luis Dindo Martinez, Lui Medinna, Fernando Modesto, Manuel Ocampo, Jonathan Olazo, Jayson Oliveria, Bernardo Pacquing, Gary Ross Pastrana, Tony Perez, Dan Raralio, Didit Robillo, Carlo Saavedra, Juni Salvador, Popo San Pascual, Briccio Santos, Jojo Serrano, Yasmin Sison, Maria Taniguchi, Jay Ticar, Wire Tuazon, Trek Valdizno, Conrado Velasco, Roy Veneracion, Alvin Villaruel, Nestor Vinluan, MM Yu and Reg Yuson.

Sculptors in this group include Dalena and ceramic artists Pete Jimenez, Hadrian Mendoza and Monique Ignacio.

Curated by Nilo Ilarde, the show runs until Jan. 6.

Collaboration

Meanwhile, Sandra Palomar and Trek Valdizno are holding "Terrain Games" at Mag:net Gallery in Makati (Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas corner and Salcedo Street).

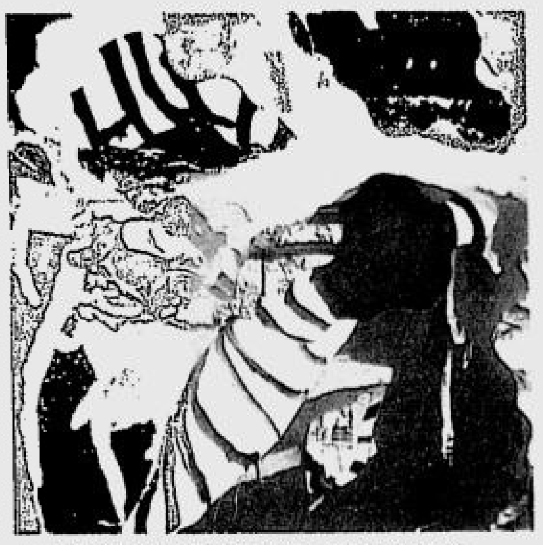
Deriving its title from a West Point military handbook on map-reading techniques, "Terrain Games" exhibits new takes against conventional and traditional forms of exhibiting and displaying collaborative artworks, modifying the terrain, so to speak, normally expected from Philippine contemporary abstractionists.

Even the process of collaboration betweeen Palomar and Valdizno defies convention, as the two jointly produce canvases using two separate processes for each artist.

Palomar utilizes actions of cutting, folding, and sculpting forms in the double performative aspects of her work , and produces the general three-dimensional character of the works in the cutouts of blot-like forms and architectural silhouettes.

Valdizno, meanwhile, wields the brush to define the two-dimensional aspects of the works: through his creation of forms using industrial-based (e.g., acrylic and enamel) paints.

Valdizno is a Painting graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts and a 1994 Juror's Choice awardee at the Philip Morris Art Awards.



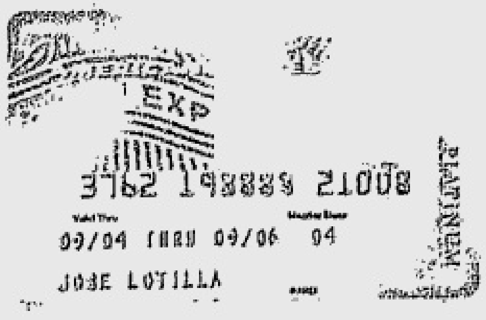
A PRODUCT of defying the convention of artistic collaboration

Palomar also majored in Painting at the UPCFA and took up further studies in painting and multi-media arts at the Paris American Academy and the Ecole Nationale Superiere des Beaux-arts in Paris, France.

Call 8177895 or e-mail magnet@pldtdsl.net.

GET REWARDS ON THE DOUBLE.

Enjoy travel experiences much sooner, as we double up on the Membership Rewards points* you earn with the American Express Peso Platinum Credit Card. From now until December 31, 2005, every Php 45 you spend for purchases here and abroad will earn you 2 Rewards Points – also equivalent to 2 Airmiles. These Rewards Points do not expire as long as you remain a Cardmember, and can be transferred to any of 6 frequent flyer programs or exchanged for accommodations at select hotels. Only in the World of Platinum. Only with the American Express Peso Platinum Credit Card.



The World of Platinum Awaits

For more information, please call 840-6886 or visit www.americanexpressbank.com.ph.

*Per OTI-NCR Permit No. 1913, Series of 2004

AMERICAN EXPRESS

Globe Coca-Cola
LOADED CHRISTMAS

LOAD UP ON COKE FOR OVER A HUNDRED MILLION PESOS* WORTH OF INSTANT PRIZES!

Drink Coca-Cola, Sprite or Royal Tru-Orange and look under the crown or cap. You can win any of the following;

1. FREE ₱1000 GLOBE AUTOLOAD MAX LOAD**

Look for this sign at the nearest sari-sari store to claim your ** free Globe or Touch Mobile AutoloadMAX load. I-surrender ang winning crown/cap. Winning crown/cap can only be used once.

2. Discounts on Coke 8oz (237mL)

Ipunin ang piso crowns or caps to get discounts or to buy more Coke!

LESS ₱1 ON COKE 8oz = ₱1 DISCOUNT

Claim discounts/free Coke at any authorized promo redemption center or participating sari-sari store I-surrender ang winning crown/cap(s) Winning crown/cap(s) can only be used once.

3. GLOBE Prepaid Phonekit

any ten (10) caps or crowns + 1 GLOBE Prepaid Phonekit crown/cap =

Claim free GLOBE Prepaid Phonekit at any Coca-Cola Plant or Sales office. Magdala lang ng any two (2) valid IDs with your crowns/caps and winning crown/cap.

LAHAT NG CROWNS PWEDENG MANALO! KAYA INOM NA! COLLECT NA!

PROMO PERIOD: OCTOBER 24-DECEMBER 31, 2004
PER DOH-BFAD PERMIT NO. 221 s. 2004

* You can also join the other promotions of the Globe Coca Cola Loaded Christmas to win more prizes. "Coca-Cola" "Sprite" "Royal" the Dynamic Ribbon device and the design of the Contour Bottle are registered trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company. © 2004 The Coca-Cola Company

A visual arts grab bag

Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

THE AAP Annual, courtesy of the Art Association of the Philippines, now on its 57th year, has had its share of troubles from both its benefactors and participants.

Some observers think the AAP has diffused itself by catering to too many categories—printmaking, for instance, which can very well be taken up by the Printmakers Association of the Philippines, or digital art, which could have been handled by a sponsoring group like Kodak.

This year's AAP Annual, as expected, witnessed a generally lopsided contest in many categories, such as printmaking (with a handful of entries) or digital art (even much less).

On the other hand, the Painting Category elicited the biggest number of participants, 128 in all, compared to mixed media, with 46.

Sculpture, often underrepresented, had even fewer entries this year with 25, and that is only insofar as quantity is concerned.

Motley mix

In the painting category, the figurative lorded it over the abstract, and in a motley mix of media. Some of these works had overwrought images that fell prey to literal-mindedness.

Joel Bartolome's first-prize winning "Idolottery" takes a jab at the Church hierarchy led by the Pope, who is shown wearing a mask while extending his hands to greet a bunch of well-wishers.

On closer view, the group includes clowns and buffoons, while around the Pontiff is a coterie of officials, and on their palms pyramid-shaped objects, talismans of the religious groups that parlay instant relief to temporal problems.

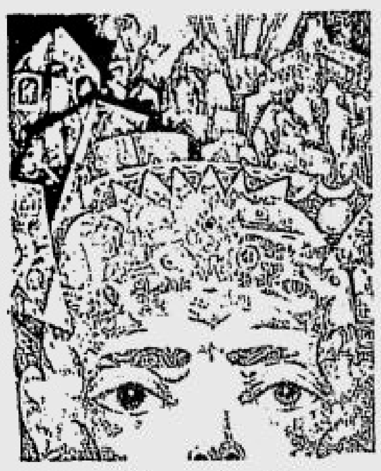
Rogelio "Toti" Cerda's runner-up in aquarelle, "Burnt-out," tackles a subject overly familiar to most artists: creative block. It shows the long-maned artist in front of an empty canvas, his forehead furrowed, while the deadline, scrawled on the note hanging by the easel, ticks ominously close. Strewn around him are crumpled sheets of paper, the light captured at its most menacing chiaroscuro.

Emmanuel Balboa's "Biyayang Binalot sa Himalang Daigdig" is a most powerful evocation of the country's despicable condition, now going to the dogs, nay, cats, made to look like gladiators aiming for the kill.

The runner-up "Siete Palabras," by Edwin Moreno delineates the story of Christ's Passion, with His tortured image on the canvas which is made to resemble a plank, the nails symbolically sealing His fate.

Edillardo Paras' "Existence" resembles a Matrix-like configuration generated by technology, a visual delight though also a bit hackneyed in rendering.

ART ASSOCIATION of the Philippines president Fidel Sarmiento, with contest judges Tam Austria, Chichi Salas, Marlene Aguilar, Mario Parial, Gus Albor, Gino Dormiendo, Tiny Nuyda, Egay Fernandez, Ana Labrador and Oscar Campomanes



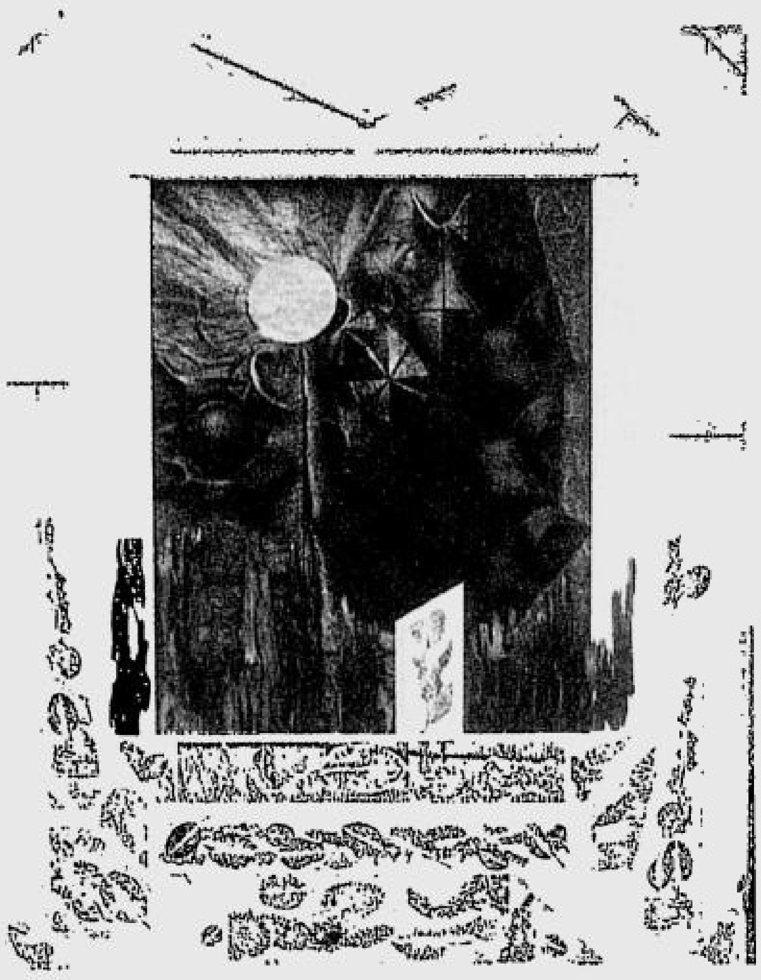
"HARI ng Kamaynilaan," by Janos Delacruz

Julio José Austria's "Inside Guard" is an abstract rendering in dripping paint, geometric forms and graffiti—an uncompromising take on a world gone mad by terror.

Walds Villanueva's "Frozen Identity" pushes the puzzling quest for identity with innovative treatment.

Less satisfying

Ostensibly less satisfying are the mixed-media entries, reflected in the limited number of truly deserving works that made it to the final list. The selection was highlighted by a discussion on whether to give recognition to an entry that has been similarly executed in other contests, including last year's AAP Annual.



"JOURNEY to a Crowded Room," by Armando Toleza

The work in question was Wilson Belarmino's "Bamboo Tattoos," an installation of cut bamboo poles arranged on canvas, with a window in the middle of the piece. As in Belarmino's past work, this piece has stickers plastered on its poles, a technique which a juror had initially thought was handpainted.

All four judges were, however, unfamiliar with the artist's track record. So, despite a juror's cautionary invocation, they handed him the top prize, anyway.

The 57th AAP is a hodgepodge of the interesting and the commonplace

Second prize went to Armando Toleza's "Journey to a Crowded Room," which incorporates a number of techniques and media such as printmaking, driftwood and corrugated panels surrounding and in the image.

The third-prize winner, Raul Piedra's "Where Ends Meet," has two major points that converge in the middle part. The boundaries spill over, as suggested by a wire (or rope) hanging in a curvilinear position.

Dan Raralio's "History Repeats Itself" is a stark gray-and-black configuration of a dire warning articulated by signs and symbols and graphics, a homespun message on humankind's transgressions.

Salvador Ching's "Patibong" is an assemblage of recycled *pili* nuts and *gugo* fibers in a neat grid-like configuration.

Eugene del Rosario's "Phantasmagoric Dream in a Mind of Someone Awake" has a diptych-like arrangement of two seemingly disparate images: one wall devoted to classical décor and another to an ultra-modern abstract composition.

Weakest link

The Sculpture Category, indeed, the annual's weakest link, has very little going for it, both in the number and quality of entries.

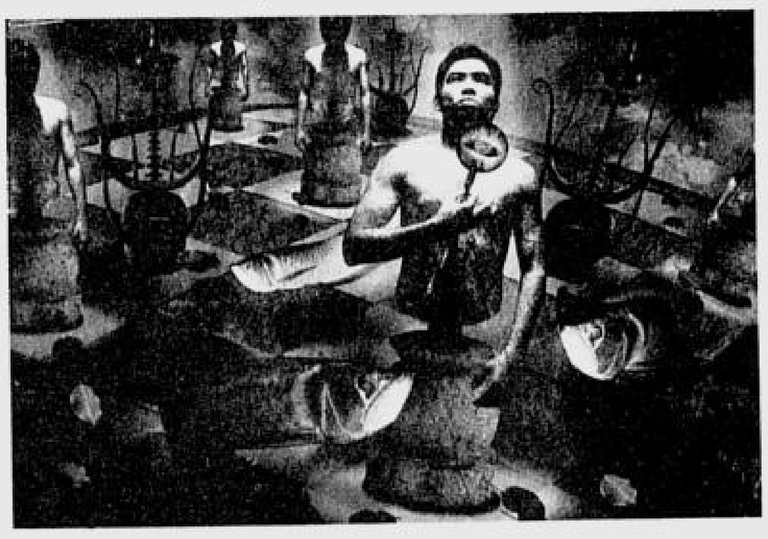
Rodel Rillera's "Free Wheel" (first prize) is a wooden contraption featuring the circular gadgets in varied sizes wound around the entire figure. With its natural organic look, the piece hardly pays homage to materiality, and neither does it transcend its nativist sentiments.

Allan Hablo's "Forgotten Fishy Stories" (second place) is an installation of recycled metal parts salvaged from a boat.

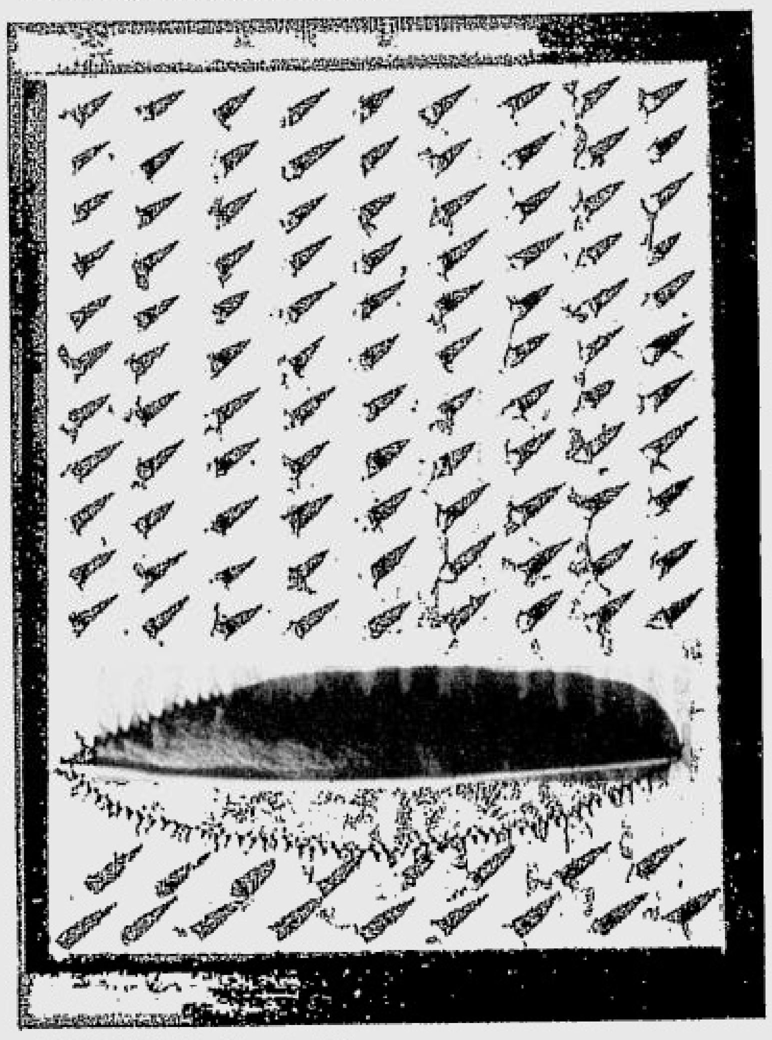
Jonahmar Salvosa's "Lumang Karunungan" (third prize) is made of basically one archetypal square iron fitting piled up like a totem pole that's perpetually balancing itself (although, of course, it has been reinforced by perhaps hardiflex).

Mark Salvatus' "Pilgrims" al-

A VISUAL/ C7



"UNTITLED," by Jonathan Lambino



"PATIBONG," by Salvador Ching

EXCLUSIVE
NEED NOT
BE ELUSIVE

American Express Platinum Cards offer Cardmembers exceptional discounts and privileges through American Express Selects and Platinum Partners. All you need to do to avail of these savings and special privileges is to use your American Express Card at quality establishments throughout Metro Manila and the Philippines – and what better time to do so than during this holiday season!

American Express Selects

American Express Platinum Cardmembers, including International Dollar Green and Gold Cardmembers can benefit from the compelling privileges from American Express Selects***, a global program that offers over 3,000 best value offers in 24 key destinations around the world. In the Philippines, 18 dining establishments covering 48 locations took the lead to join the American Express Selects program. American Express Cardmembers can enjoy a variety of culinary choices and exceptional dining privileges, including:

15% discount

MAGNUM
15% discount

15% discount

15% discount

15% discount

15% discount

20% discount

Platinum Partners

Bringing the world's best to the Philippines, the American Express Peso Platinum Credit Card is the ultimate premium lifestyle accessory today. During this Christmas season, let our exclusive Platinum Partners* pamper you with savings and special privileges, including:

Makati Shangri-La MANILA
15% discount on food and beverage bill that applies to all 3 Shangri-La F&B outlets

INSTITUT CLARINS PARIS
Free 30-minutes Express Body polish with every Pro-Active Facial Treatment

MIX
10% off on in-store brands

CHARRIOL
10% of on Celtic Carre Watches, Azur Watches and Pens

20% on whole cake purchases

KitchenAid
10% off on select mixer models and accessories

15% off on food and beverage bill and 10% off on wine purchases

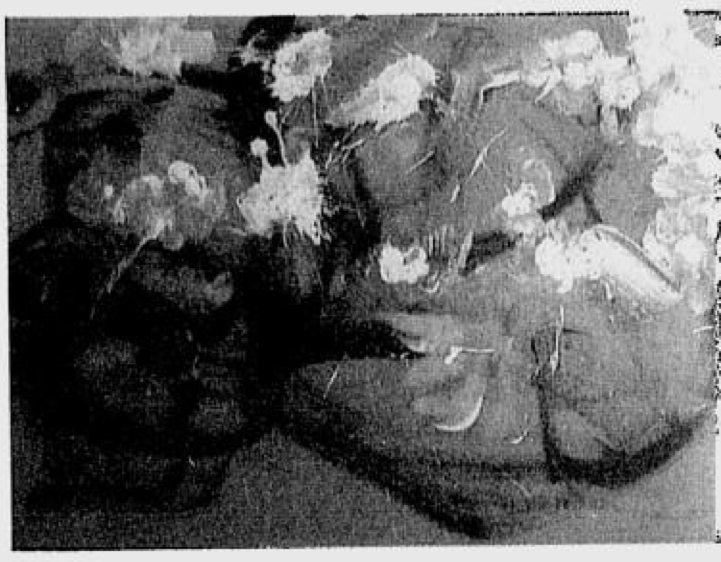
FULLYBOOKED
5% off on purchases + free iced tea at Press Café

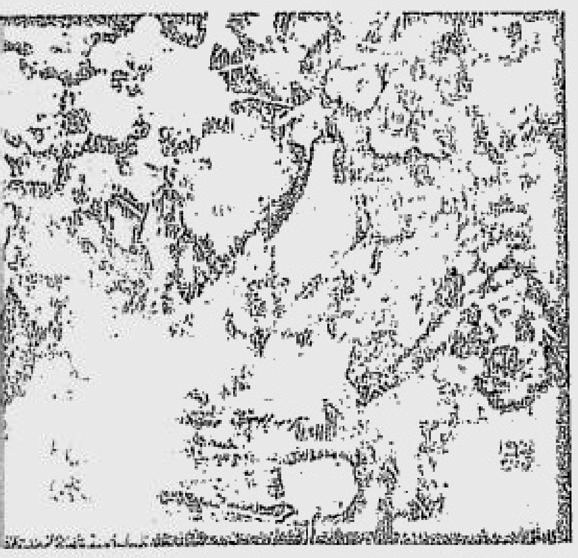
On top of all the great values, American Express Peso Platinum Credit Cardmembers will earn DOUBLE Membership Rewards Points for ALL CHARGES until December 31, 2005.**

For complete details on American Express Selects and Platinum Partners of the American Express Cards, please call our 24-Hour Customer Service Hotline at 814-4777. Or visit americanexpress.com.ph for the International Dollar Cards and americanexpressbank.com.ph for the Peso Platinum Credit Card.

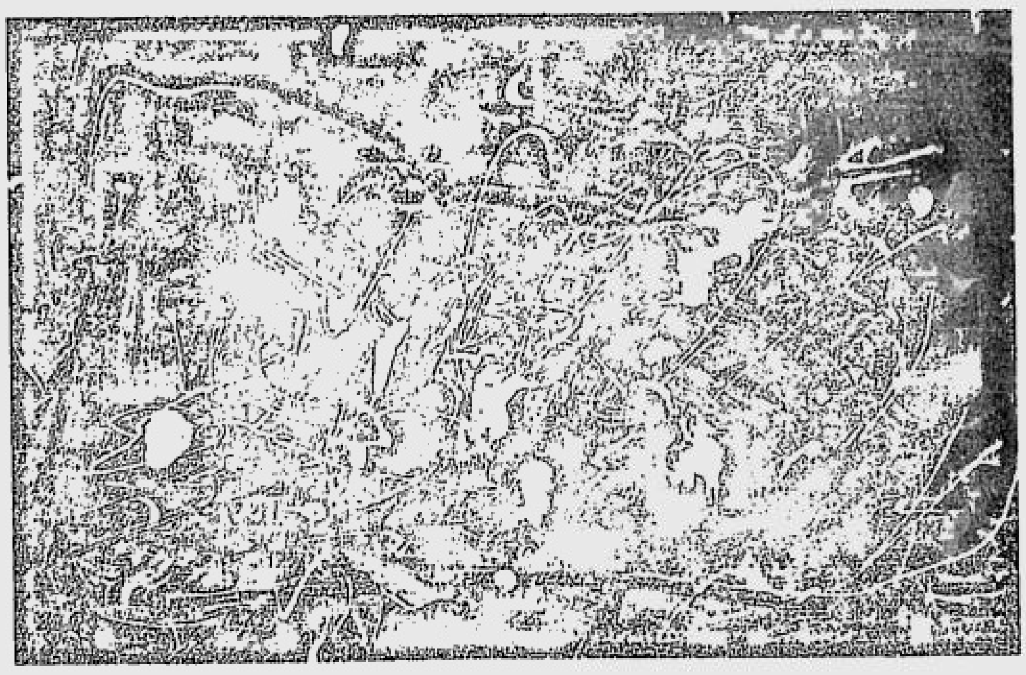
* Per DTI-NCR permit# 4594 Series of 2005
** Per DTI-NCR permit# 1913 Series of 2005
*** Per DTI-NCR permit# 3089 Series of 2005

THE WORLD OF PLATINUM AWAITS AMERICAN EXPRESS





"SPIDER"



"FRIENDS"

Art outside the establishment

By Constantino C. Tejero

SHE'S still in diapers, yet she's creating paintings that have already been compared to the works of Miró, Pollock and Picasso. She can't even write her name yet, but she's selling artworks for an average of P3,000 per piece, and has so far grossed P70,000.

Amazing! some may exclaim—but not too amazing when one considers that 3-year-old Zoerya Emi Baldemor Abuel has for grandfathers the three Baldemor artists: her mother Irene's father, the sculptor Fred Baldemor; and his cousins, painter Manuel and sculptor Angelito Baldemor.

And that's not mentioning that the child's mother, grandmother and two uncles also paint. She is, in fact, a descendant of that artistic clan from Paete.

Artistic talent may not be genetic, but the penchant for art, even the skill, the temper and the taste for it can certainly be acquired if you're surrounded by such people.

Though she can count a few digits, recite the alphabet and sing nursery rhymes, Emi can't even sign her artworks yet. So her grandfather, whom she calls Dada Fred, had a rubber stamp of her name made in Japan when he visited recently.

On Dec. 22, her third birthday, the tot opens her first solo exhibit, "Bi no bi" (Japanese for "beauty of beauty"), in Gallery 828 at the Art Plaza, L/4, Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

Some 150 pieces in oil and acrylic on canvas and watercolor on paper will be on display until Dec. 28. Half of the proceeds will go to a charity for the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Rendered mostly on 8" x 10" canvases in broad strokes, squiggles, drops and drips in bold color and often with impasto, the pieces, with titles such as "Spider," "Clouds," "Red Snow," "Mountain," "Monster," are spontaneous abstraction with a few hinting at figures that only a child can visualize.

Gifted child

As Fred Baldemor tells it, his granddaughter's artistic preoccupation started on her second birthday, when she was gifted with a watercolor set and an artist's gown. Since then, almost every day, morning and afternoon, she'd be urging him, "Dada, let's go painting!" and led him down to his studio.

"*Hindi mo mapipigilan 'yan, maski ano'ng idadahilan mo,*" laughs Baldemor. "*Habang nagpipinta ako, kinukuha mga gamit ko, kaya pinababayaan ko na.*"

He'd put a small canvas on the easel and, while singing nursery rhymes and Elvis Presley and wiggling her behind, the tot would finish one canvas after another. She averages three artworks a day.

"*Gusto n'ya malalaking* brush, *kaya makita mo* bold strokes," Baldemor continues. "*Dinadampot lang nang dinadampot ang* paint tubes, *pinipindot* direct *sa* canvas. One time she couldn't stop from squeezing, so I had to replace the paint into the tube."

He had to buy her the kind of acrylic that's directly squeezed from the tube and worked on the canvas without aid of a brush, particularly of fluorescent hues.

Her favorites are pink, blue and purple. Her sense of color is that of a child, as when she painted snow red.

Of form, she can create a circle and a triangle, however imperfectly, but has a hard time with the square.

Subjects that come to her mind (properly, inspirations) comprise anything from the natural world and the world of the imagination. She'd just finish a piece and declare it's a little fish, a little raindrop, the moon, fire, airplane or a little dinosaur.

"*Parang naglalaro lang siya,*" says the ever-indulgent grandfather.

Budding artist

Emi was invited to participate in the Tianjin International Children's Painting Competition held in China last July. And she will exhibit her artworks at the International Art Village in Tokyo early next year.

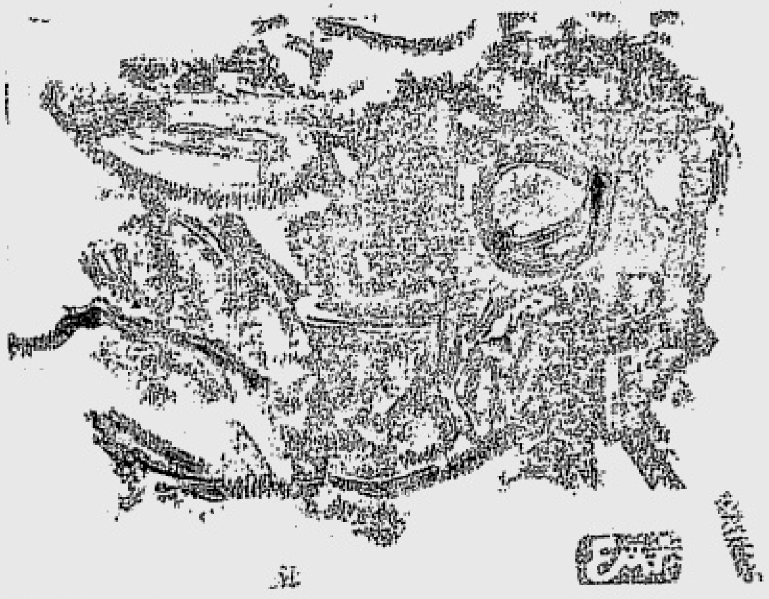
The artworks show some virtues in form and chromatics. But the effusive praise by certain Japanese artists comparing her art to the masters', as told by Baldemor, should be contextualized.

This is art produced outside the established art world, what has been described as a channeling of energy. That shouldn't be surprising, and we wouldn't call it genius or prodigy—yet—because a child can really create art.

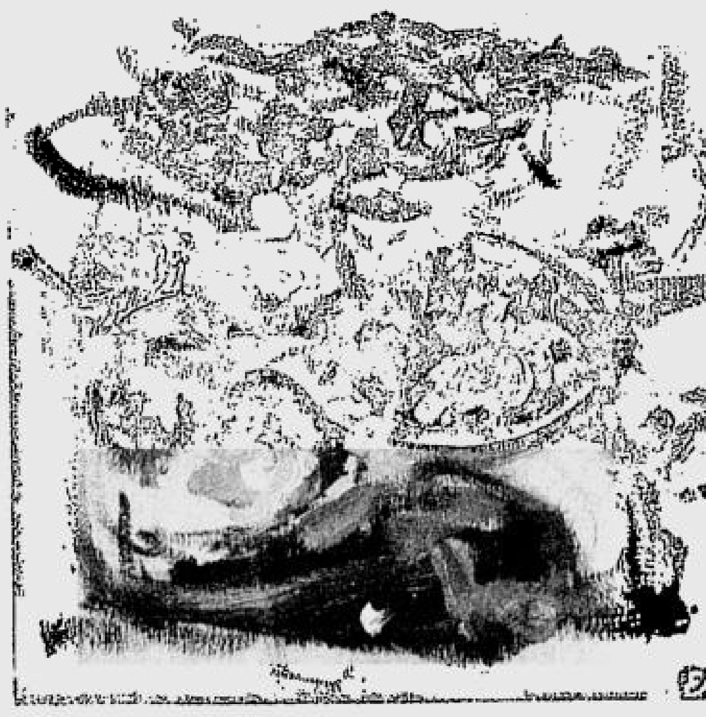
It is, in fact, Art Brut, the authentic one, as to be distinguished from the one of artists who have studied Fine Arts but chosen to practice the raw art of children (as in the case of Jean Dubuffet, "preferring untrained spontaneity to professional skill" as evidence of the power of originality).

It can be compared to Action Painting in its spontaneity and effects, but to reference Abstract Expressionism here would be absurd. Why, the child can barely even write yet, much less understand what Pollock was up to.

It is clear, though, that we have another artist budding in our midst.

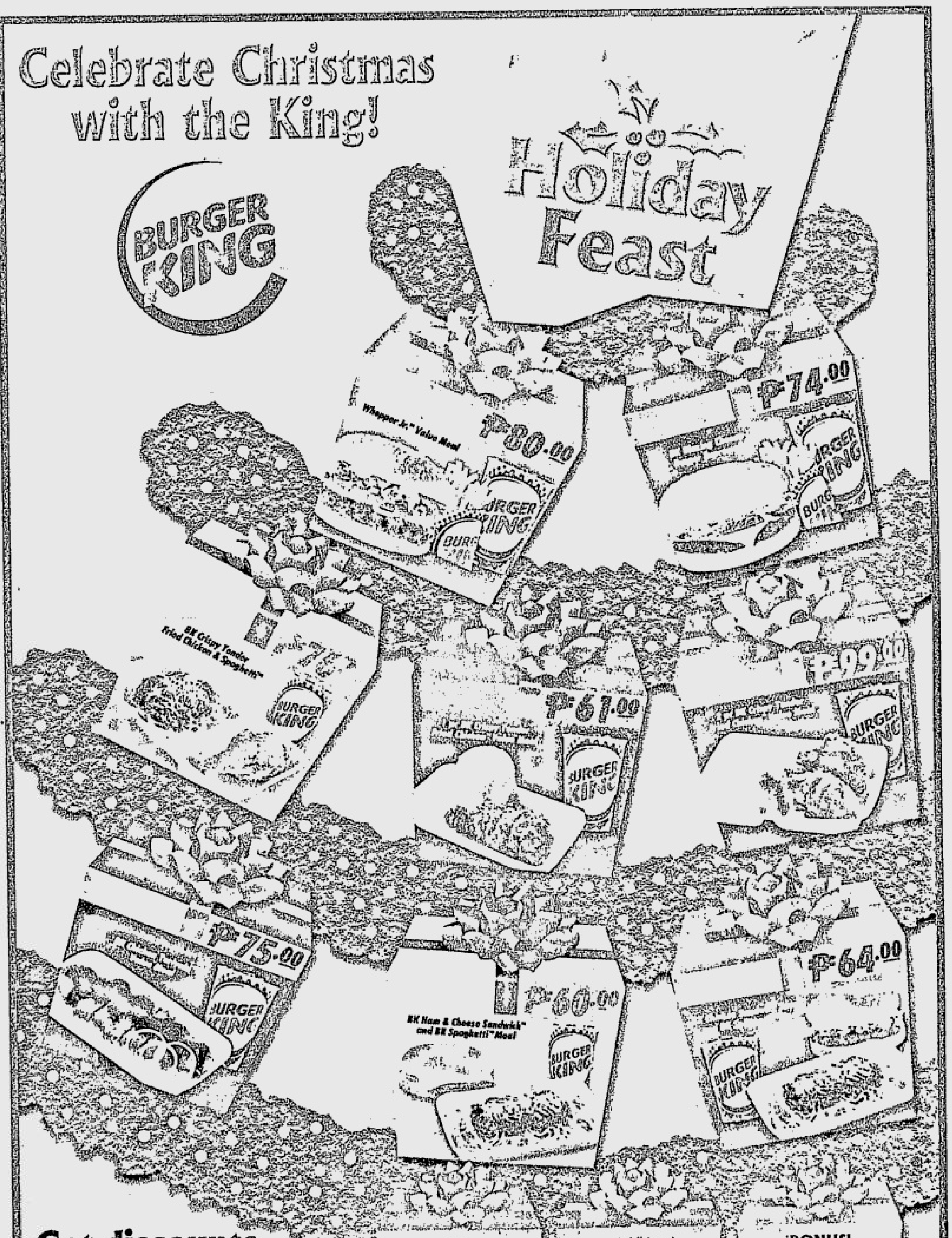


"RED Snow"



"FLOWERS"

ZOERYA Emi Baldemor Abuel blithely creates three artworks a day.


Celebrate Christmas with the King!
BURGER KING
Holiday Feast
Whopper Jr.™ Value Meal
₱80.00
₱74.00
BK Crispy Tender Fried Chicken & Spaghetti™
₱99.00
₱61.00
₱75.00
BK Ham & Cheese Sandwich™ and BK Spaghetti™ Meal
₱60.00
₱64.00

Get discounts on meal packages for a minimum order of 30 pieces.

Get **10% discount** for a minimum order of 30 pcs of any of the Christmas Party packages.

Additional **5% discount** will be given to last year's guests who will book their orders again this year.

BONUS! P1,000 BK Gift Certificates will be given to guests who will sign Christmas party contract amounting to P10,000 and up, from Nov. 8 to Nov. 30, 2004.

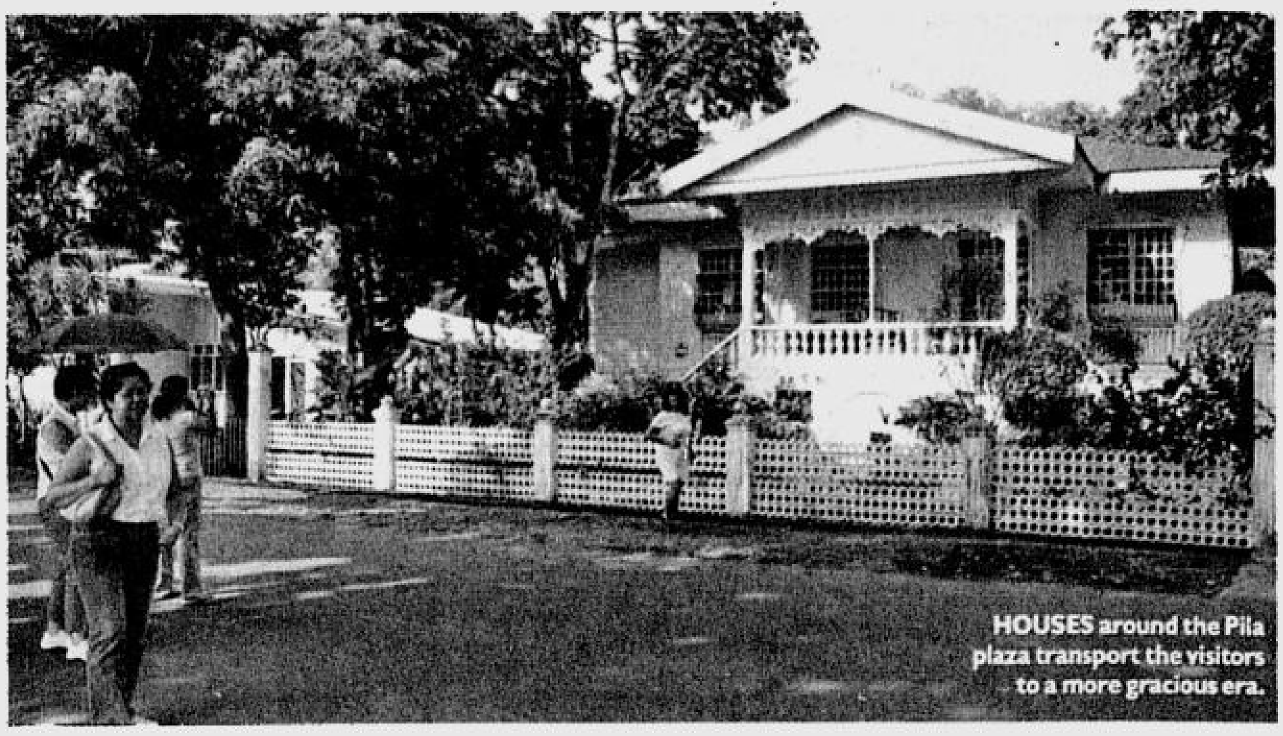
Promo Duration: Nov. 8, 2004 to Jan. 15, 2005

BK Spaghetti meals are available for dine-in only.

It just tastes better™

The BURGER KING Bun Halves and Crescent Logo is a trademark of Burger King Corporation. © 1999 Burger King Corporation. All rights reserved.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.5334 Series of 2004



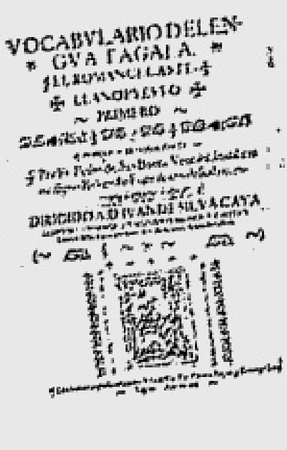
HOUSES around the Pila plaza transport the visitors to a more gracious era.

Pila: A book and a plaza

ALL4ART

Bea Zobel Jr.

A Laguna town and an ancient Spanish-Tagalog dictionary show the cultural flowering during the Spanish era



VOCABVLARIO DELEN-
GVA TAGALA.

17TH-CENTURY Spanish-Tagalog dictionary

ONE of the loveliest town squares I have ever seen is that of Pila in Laguna.

Unfortunately, when you mention the town's name, most people are at a loss to locate the place. Some vaguely think of long lines or even of athletic supplies (OK, so that's spelled with an *F*!).

I can assure you that the trip to Laguna is worth it. Pila is a beautiful town.

Standing in the middle of the plaza, one sees houses from the early American era and even Spanish period clustered around a grassy mall. Going there early in the morning, when it is still all rosy and dewy, one truly feels transported to another era.

On one end of the plaza is the municipal hall (built before World War II) with its Neo-Classical architecture. At the other end is the huge brown mass of the church, which, together with the old school house, is a precious example of Spanish colonial heritage.

The latter building now holds Pila Museum. Exhibits include pottery found in Pila during archaeological excavations led by the Locsin couple, National Artist for Architecture Leandro and his wife Cecile.

This same building was the venue for displays on the town's traditional resources created by the local youth as a result of a workshop on heritage organized by the Met Museum.

Of course, one of the joys of visiting this town is the chance of being invited inside one of the stately houses. In one particular home, I remember seeing gracious pink interiors and a colored glass window that even featured a nipa hut.

In the quieter section of the plaza is a modest and yet pretty dwelling. This is the home of the Relova family. One of the daughters of the house is my friend, Cora Relova.

I have written about her and how she treated us to the most delicious lunch which included *dulong*, *pako* salad, *bibingkang hipon*. Ay! I can never forget that gastronomic delight!

Lovely compound

But part of the pleasure of the meal was the setting of Cora's lovely compound just outside of Pila. Our hostess entertained us in an open-sided pavilion set off from its surroundings only by screens.

Cora works with famous designer Budji Layug, so something of his unique style is evident in the house. Along with very contemporary Budji-style pieces, one sees touches of the past. I loved the way bunches of dried *pandan* or *anahaw* were hung from the eaves to form a kind of curtain.

Cora is known to many people as Pila's heritage advocate. Together with Monina Rivera of the Pila Historical Society, she has been mobilizing her neighbors to protect the vestiges of their town's proud past. Cora had lived for many years abroad and, having come home just a few years ago, she found herself drawn to heritage advocacy.

When she first arrived, the town plaza was not as beautiful as it is today. It was messy and burdened with concrete structures. Cora managed to convince everyone to remove what was superfluous. Working quietly but with determination, she and her friends were able to get the National Historical Institute to declare the area around the town's center as a historical zone.

She has not looked back since. Almost every year she has had to fight threats to undermine the integrity of the plaza. She is truly a valiant woman deserving of our praise.

During our lunch with Cora, I recall her bringing out a big yellow book. This turned out to be a reissued edition of an old Spanish-Tagalog dictionary compiled by a priest, Fr. Pedro San Buenaventura. The original book was printed way back in 1613.

Apparently, as scholars like Ricky José have explained to me, there were never really enough Spanish people to teach the native Filipinos the language of the colonial masters. So it was agreed that it would be better for the priests to learn the local tongues instead, hence the need for the dictionaries.

They also relied on the help of young children who grew up naturally speaking Spanish and a Philippine language.

What I found remarkable was that the book was actually produced in the town of Pila itself. In fact, it is one of the first works in the Philippines printed with movable type.

The text on the cover even refers to the town as "*…la noble villa de Pila*." It is this impressive phrase that has always inspired Cora. She loves to recite the words as we walk around the town. It is an ancient title that gives substance to her labors.

Looking for the book

Little did I know that I would soon be enmeshed in this same dictionary. A few months later, while in Madrid, I casually asked a good friend, who was back in the Philippines, if he wanted anything from the general neighborhood of the Iberian peninsula.

The answer was one that I would soon live to regret: He wanted a copy of the reissue of the San Buenaventura dictionary. Though I was taken somewhat aback, I told myself, what could be so difficult about finding an old book? Yes, my innocence was actually quite charming.

The first place I checked was our local parish church. Of course, they thought I was some kind of a nut case. I would later learn to my embarrassment that San Buenaventura was Franciscan while our parish was run by Augustinians.

So I then went to the biggest bookstore in Madrid. Again my sanity was questioned. What year did you say? 1613? Couldn't I interest you in something a bit more current?

So that was it. I turned to an expert in lost causes, my aunt Rerre Basagoiti. If there was anyone who could find this book, she could. She began by calling—of course—the Franciscan mother house in Madrid. Now, why didn't I think of that?

Unfortunately, the woman she got hold of probably just had an unproductive manicure. She wasn't in a helpful mood. She airily dismissed my aunt by telling her to call Villa de Aranzazu in Guipuzcoa in Northern Spain.

I would have given up at that point simply because the names I was going to be working with had far too many letter *Zs*! But not my aunt.

A wonderful man by the name of Padre Arregui in Villa Aranzazu said he could only help by giving the number of a lady named Miriam, who lived in San Sebastian. I do not understand this part of the story. Perhaps Miriam was one of the founders of www.amazon.com.

At any rate she told my aunt (I had already fled by that time and my aunt was on her own!) that what she was looking for was the Archivo de los Indias, which had just been transferred to Calle Narciso Serra 21 back in—yes—Madrid!

When my aunt finally made it to the Archivo, she was met by Father Pedro who, it turns out, had just come back from doing research in—can you believe it—San Antonio in Makati! He then brought out a copy of my dictionary—at long last!

So was it worth it?

In the introductory essay of the new edition, there is mention of how the scholar William Henry Scott explains the value of the many wonderful words in the dictionary. He explains that we can pick up from the various terms the complexity of technologies already in use by the ancient Filipinos even before they were exposed to Spanish culture.

Scott discusses the expertise of our ancestors in such fields as agriculture, metalwork, weaving, architecture and the like as evidenced by their wide vocabulary.

Somehow it is so comforting, when you open the pages, to see familiar words like *bakal*, *bahay* and even *baboy*. It is nice to know that 400 years ago, our grandparents spoke the same language.

Thinking back on Pila and its plaza and the issues that Cora and her friends must constantly address, one begins to understand that heritage is many things. It involves buildings, and artworks, weaving, food, books and plazas.

But it is also the work we do, the words we use, the feelings we express and yes, the ideas that we cherish.

E-mail beartist@filipinaslibrary.org.ph or address letter to Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati City.

Aging on the lap of history

The historic town of Majayjay, Laguna, celebrates its 433rd anniversary

By Pablo A. Trozado
Contributor

AN old adage that says "Looking back at the past paves the way to a bright future" goes for the people of Majayjay, Laguna, who never fail to remember their history.

Recently delegations from the town's 40 barangays , public-school teachers, students, senior citizens and civic groups gathered at the town plaza and formed a parade about 2-km long in celebration of the town's 433rd founding anniversary.

The colorful parade showcased the costumes of varying designs worn by the participants, including wrought *pandan* leaves fashioned into beautiful ensembles.

After the two-hour parade, the town plaza hosted a program of speeches, folk dances and singing, and general merriment. Clusters of *lanzones* were distributed free, courtesy of town people who owned orchards of the fruit.

Rep. Benjie Agarao of the 4th District of Laguna, the only invited guest, graced the occasion and commended the town and its mayor, Tino Rodillas.

After the program, the crowd, led by Vice Mayor Filo Guera, moved to 40 shacks built around the *barangay* circle, where food was served. *Lambanog*, the town's signature wine product, overflowed as roasted pigs and fried native chickens were consumed by the revelers.

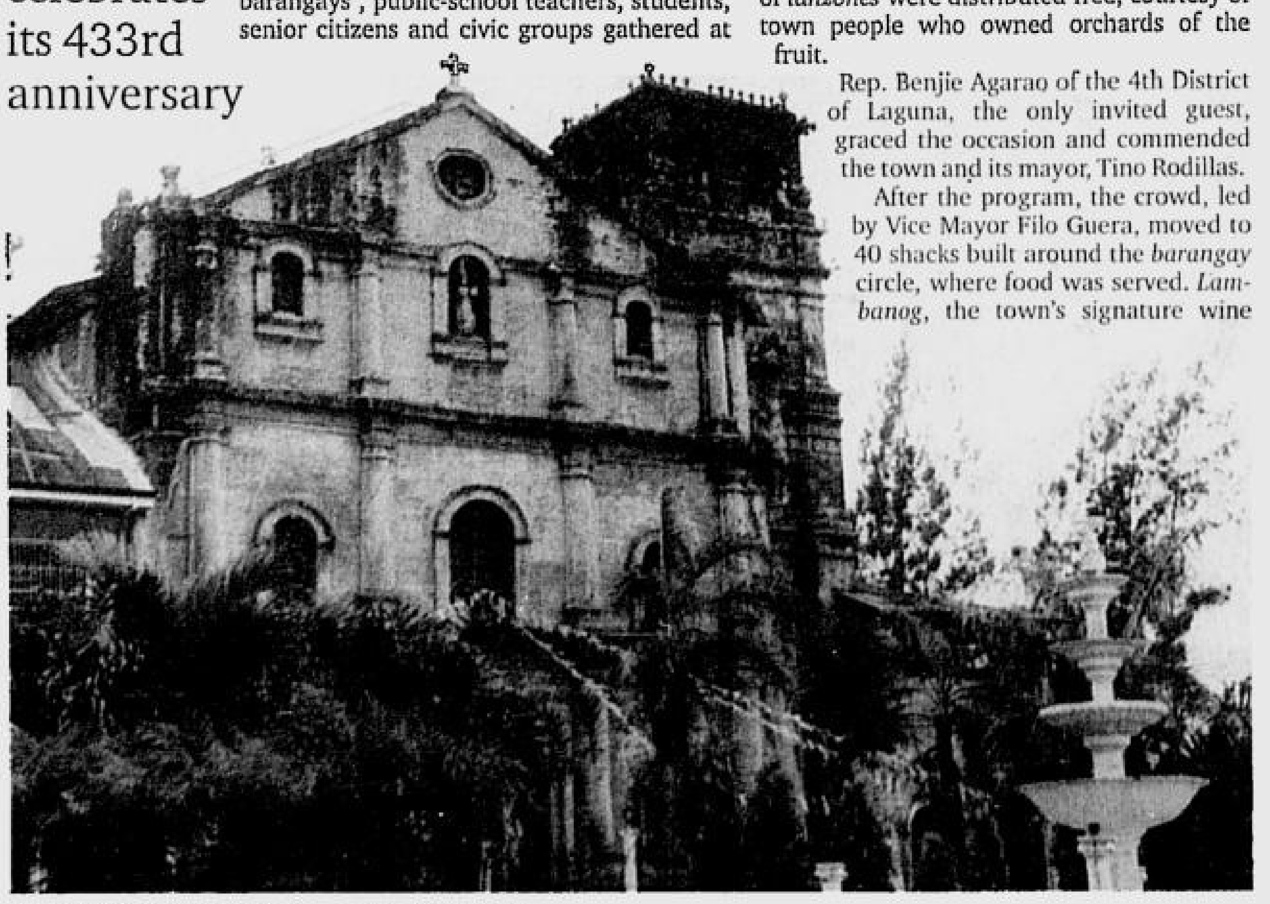
The town of Majayjay, inhabited by such a convivial but prayerful people, is a historic place. Before it was a town, it was a thickly forested part of the Mt. Banahaw jungle..

With the advent of Spanish rule, Spanish missionaries were sent to Majayjay to convert the natives into Christians. The town was formally founded in 1571, with Don Gaspar Osorio as the first *gobernadorcillo*.

The name Majayjay was originally spelled in Tagalog as Mahayhay, roughly translated as "full of sighs." It was a reference to the steep uphill trails that made trekking to the town difficult for visitors.

Spanish-era monuments still stand in the town. One of them is the 273-year-old St. Gregory Parish Church, completed only after 19 years of forced labor. Today, the church remains the social and spiritual center of the town of Majayjay.

WOMENSFOLK in gowns of *pandan* mats



THE 273-YEAR-OLD St. Gregory Parish Church

FOOD displayed in Barangay Pangil

Celebrating Manila

From page C1

message is that. Manila's vanishing heritage must be preserved. For information and schedules, contact celdrantours@hotmail.com

PULPIT of San Agustin Church

Get this card!
MANGO
Closeup
MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD
XUS
VISUAL pollution mars landscape

Bahay Nakpil

This was the home of prominent historical figure Dr. Ariston Bautista and his in-laws, the Nakpil family. Bautista was a philanthropist and prominent figure deeply involved in the Philippine Revolution, a close colleague of José Rizal and Juan Luna.

Sharing the house with Bautista was Katipunan official Juan Nakpil, who married Gregoria de Jesus, widow of national hero Andres Bonifacio.

The celebrated painting "Parisian Life" by Juan Luna, now the centerpiece of the GSIS Museum, originally hung in the Bautista-Nakpil house.

The Nakpil house on Calle Barbosa (now Dr. Ariston Bautista Street) in Quiapo is an outstanding example of Philippine architecture. It was designed by architect Juan Arellano in the classic *bahay na bato* style. The detailing done in turn-of-the-century Viennese Secession style makes the house one of a kind in the Philippines. All carvings, woodwork and grillwork are executed in the same abstracted, geometric lines depicting floral patterns.

Bahay Nakpil is now a museum open to the public. For information, call 7349341.

San Agustin Museum

Probably the best collection of Spanish-colonial religious artifacts open to the public in Manila, the San Agustin Museum in the cloisters of San Agustin Church is an unforgettable experience.

San Agustin is the best place in the country to see the most exquisite *santos* (wooden images), religious paintings on wood and canvas, altars, silver, ceremonial vestments, old parchment missals and hymnals.

Inscribed on the Unesco World Heritage List, San Agustin Church is the oldest stone church in the country and definitely worth a visit.

A Christmas exhibit of 300 Philippine and foreign *belens* (Nativity crèches) is now on exhibit at the second-floor cloister.

Call 5274060.

Museo Pambata

Can you actually have fun in a museum? If you have to ask that question, then you probably haven't been to museums lately.

Bring the children to Museo Pambata on the corner of Roxas Boulevard and T.M. Kalaw. Also take them to Museum of the Filipino People on Agrifina Circle at the Taft Avenue end of Rizal Park.

Museo Pambata is the ultimate children's trip. It is a "Touch me!" museum with interactive exhibits setting a fun atmosphere where children (and adults) learn basic scientific facts and the rudiments of electricity, among other things. It is where simulated jungles complete with mini waterfalls teach proper care of the environment.

Heritage is not forgotten at Museo Pambata. Scale models of Spanish-era houses in the Manila district of Binondo are living exhibits, child-size playhouses where children can enter to play with tactile exhibits which teach how their great grandparents lived.

Hearing children squeal with delight as they experience Museo Pambata is reward enough for having taken the trek to take them there. For information, call 5231797.

Museum of the Filipino People

The Museum of the Filipino People is a fun place. If you think museums are Jurassic places whose stuffy exhibits are covered with dust, this is the museum to change your mind. Its interactive exhibits light up at the touch of a button and set off a chain of sound effects. Sections in maps illuminate to show where the different people of the Philippines live. Engaging videos and amazing exhibits trace the evolution of Filipinos and their land.

The "Alay ng Dagat—The San Diego 1600 Time Capsule" traces the saga of the San Diego, a Cebu-constructed galleon that sank off the coast of Nasugbu, Batangas, as it was sailing off to battle against the Dutch. On exhibit are samples of its cargo—weaponry, ceramics, jars and even delicate rosaries—retrieved through an extensive underwater archaeology project.

ARROCEROS Forest Park's green serenity

It is difficult to leave the Museum of the Filipino People without rediscovering pride for Filipino culture, an elusive feeling for the Filipino these days. Call 5243005.

Manila is not a city that stands to win urban beauty contests or rank high in the yearly lists of the world's most livable cities. However, she does have a few surprises up her sleeve.

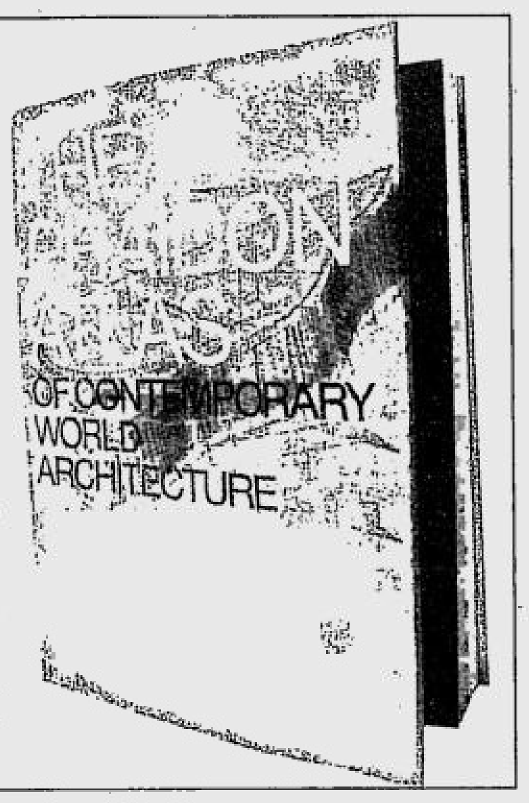
E-mail your feedback to afvillalon@hotmail.com

Architecture atlas now available

"THE PHAIDON Atlas of Contemporary World Architecture" is a global survey of the most outstanding contemporary works of architecture completed over the last five years. This atlas is a comprehensive, up-to-date reference book from Phaidon Publications. It contains exquisitely detailed descriptions of buildings of every type, from museums to mansions and banks to airports.

Also nestled among its tastefully laid-out pages are well-researched biographies of the most prominent and active international architects of our time. Established critics, curators, journalists and practitioners nominated the buildings included within the covers of this book.

The Phaidon Atlas of Contemporary World Architecture is now available at National Book Store and Powerbooks.



A visual arts . . .

From page C4

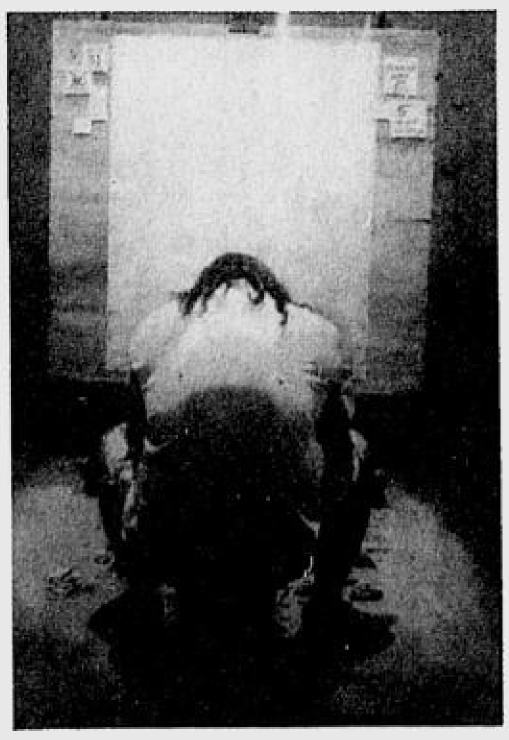
ludes to the nature of reality and illusion, with its Pandora's box-like installation partly opened to reveal its contents.

Melvin John Ante's "Re-awakening" is a recycled contraption from fibrous materials, with a partly exposed center, not unlike a flower about to burst open. Benjie Bisaya's "Tugaw" is nothing but a three-legged bench assembled from discarded tree trunks.

Varied media

Truly, the recycling spirit has taken the better of our craftsmen and artists, as the surfeit of rehashed and reassembled pieces has become more pronounced this year, and more glaring among local sculptors.

The Drawing Category, with 25-odd entries in equally varied media, failed to elicit its spirited share of interest from the judges.


"BURNT-OUT," by Rogelio "Toti" Cerda

Raul Agner's "Material Fool" easily outclasses the rest with its richly conjured and equally fervid image of what seems to be a heart-rending, mind-blowing tableau of Pinoy diaspora.

Carlito Casamayor's "Inspirasyon" is a tad too pretty in its depiction of an otherwise surreal subject. John Espino's "Quintessence" manages to be fairly engrossing, but the subject is a tired and tried one.

As to printmaking, which managed to attract just six entries, it was clear from the onset that Janos Delacruz's "Hari ng Kamaynilaan" was fated to be the winner.

Napoleon Banayat's "Pista sa Nayon" and Demosthenes Campos' "Fastidious Race" manage to look fresh and charming in their interpretation of the Pinoy's penchant for fun and feasting.

Equally handicapped by a lack of entries are the categories of digital art and photography. But making up for the glaring lack is Jonathan Lambino's "Untitled," adjudged best entry in the former, with its phantasmagoric view of a game of chess with man and fish that alludes to the game of destruction on the planet.

Surreal is Joey Ong's "Dusk," where the view is more hedonistic and less semiotic in character than Lambino's. Marlon Despues' "Transfigure" captures the movement of a group of dancers in a parade, through a lens hazy and far from dramatic.

Execrable

Finally, photography, again the annual's most execrable category as evident in the low level of competitiveness and output.

Francis Harlos Orara's "In Disguise" (best entry), James Zabala's "Yosi," Lyndon Joseph Susi's "Apapa Um Mamaw" and Genalyn Paner's "Milky Bath" are unquestionably the works of photographers with little daring. They are bereft of drama and realism—those qualities that make photography a stimulating medium for envisioning the world.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

BD Remit

"When they depend on you...

...you can depend on us".

With BDO Remit, it is our priority to provide you with world-class remittance service you and your family can rely on.

Fast Your family can receive your remittance from anywhere in the world in ONE minute through BDO Remit's online transaction.

Secure Your money will be handled safely with the financial strength of Banco de Oro Universal Bank, a member of the SM Group of Companies.

Convenient Experience bank-and-shop convenience. Remittance can be withdrawn at any BDO branch inside SM Malls until 7 pm even on Saturdays or Sundays.

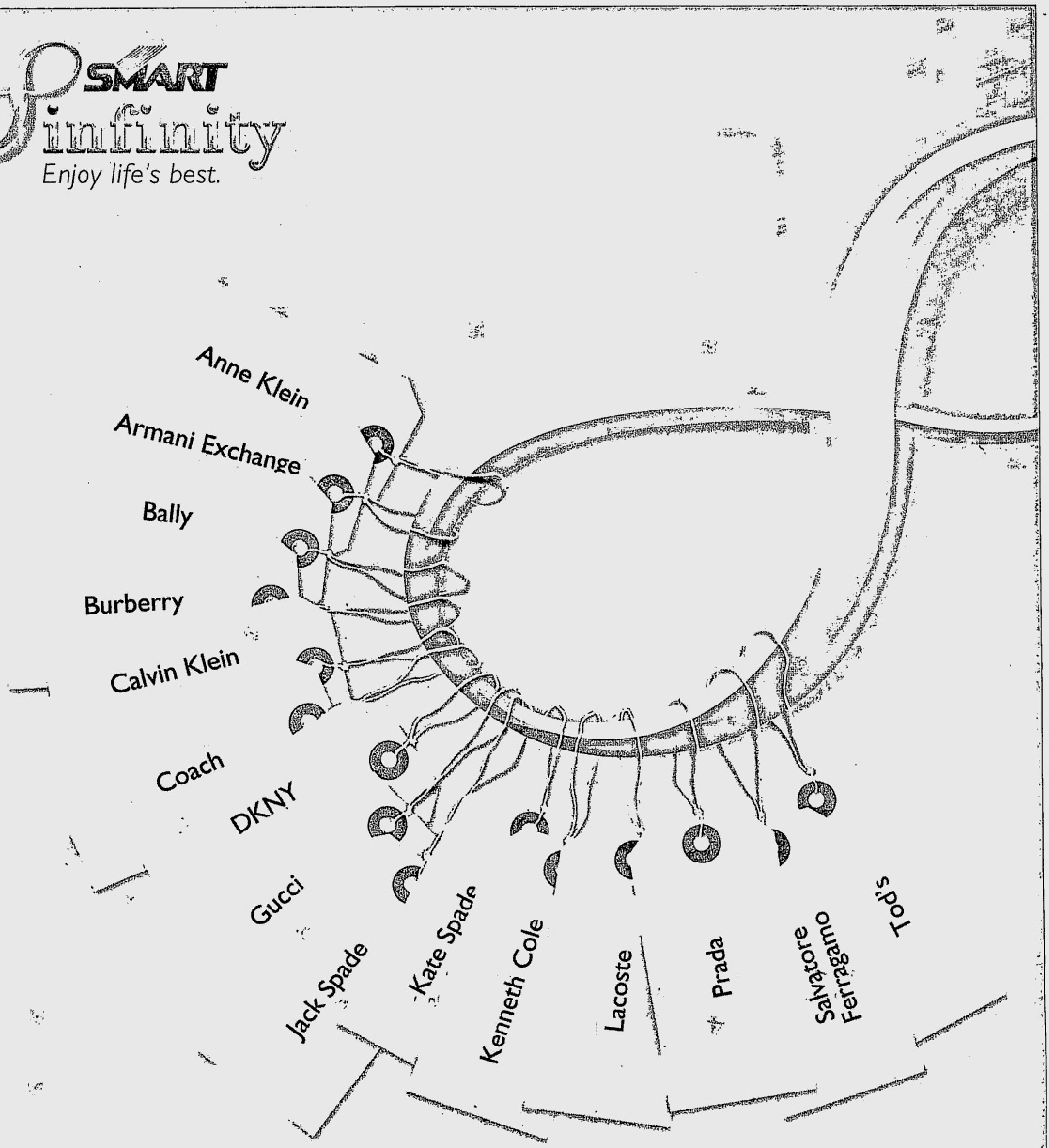
We find ways

BDO Remit Cash Card is accepted in:

SM
Appliance Center
Watsons
Home
ACE
SURPLUS SHOP

BDO UNIBANK BANCO DE ORO
Member: SM Group of Companies
12 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
BDO Call Center: 631-8000
International Toll Free No. +800-8-631-8000
Domestic Toll Free No. 1-800-10-631-8000
www.bancodeoro.com.ph

SMART Infinity
Enjoy life's best.


Anne Klein
Armani Exchange
Bally
Burberry
Calvin Klein
Coach
DKNY
Gucci
Jack Spade
Kate Spade
Kenneth Cole
Lacoste
Prada
Salvatore Ferragamo
Tod's

Have we mentioned we're all about life's best?

Receive a ₱40,000 shopping spree at any of these premium brands when you subscribe to SMART Infinity.

Connect to SMART Infinity via SIM-only subscription and receive a complimentary ₱40,000 gift certificate you can use when you shop at the outlets of our featured designer brands which also includes:

- Polo Ralph Lauren
- Charriol
- Natori
- Bottega Veneta
- Yves Saint Laurent
- Tutto Moda
- Diesel
- Marlboro Jeans
- Nine West

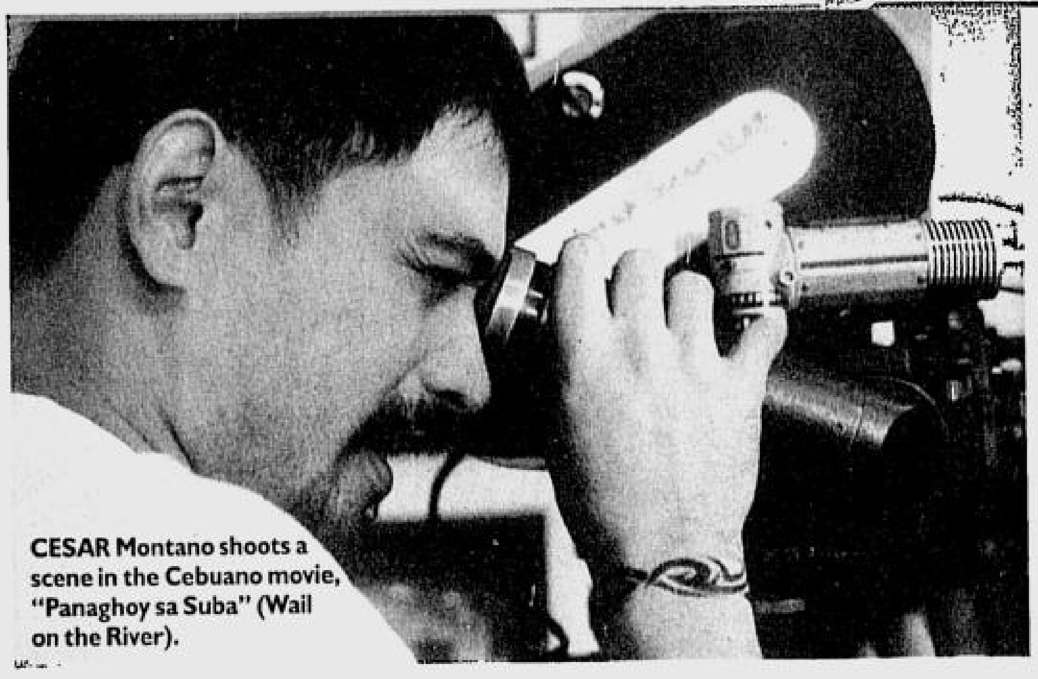
I ♡ SMART
Simply amazing!

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111; *888 using your SMART cellone; the SMART Corporate Hotline at #888; send a text message to 888 (Standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, visit our website at www.smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you. Promo duration: December 19, 2004 to January 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6138, Series of 2004.

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



CESAR Montano shoots a scene in the Cebuano movie, "Panaghoy sa Suba" (Wail on the River).

Artists go natural

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

RECENTLY media showed grim and shocking images of nature taking its revenge—massive landslides and rivers gone wild.

The number of typhoon fatalities alone makes you want to turn to Verdi or Mozart's Requiem for solace.

Last year, Cecile Licad and son Otavio, with filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya, had one of their most unforgettable experiences—trapped by a rampaging landslide in Banaue after an outreach concert in Cagayan.

The road was blocked by large boulders. As we negotiated more

ARTISTS/ D3

Quality time will be so much fun at the SMART Kid Yule Fair!

Rockwell Plaza Garden and Plaza Strip • December 10, 2004 to January 2, 2005

EXCITING RIDES AND BOOTHS
CAROUSEL
FERRIS WHEEL
KIDDIE TRAIN
SHOOTING GALLERY
EUROBUNGEE TRAMPOLINE
WAMPEE STOMPER
BUNGEE RUN
ANIMAL [illegible]

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
SMART KID MASCOT
MEET N' GREET
BUBBLE SHOW
KIDDIE SALON
FACE PAINTING
GLITTER TATTOO
HENNA TATTOO
ON-THE-SPOT CARICATURE

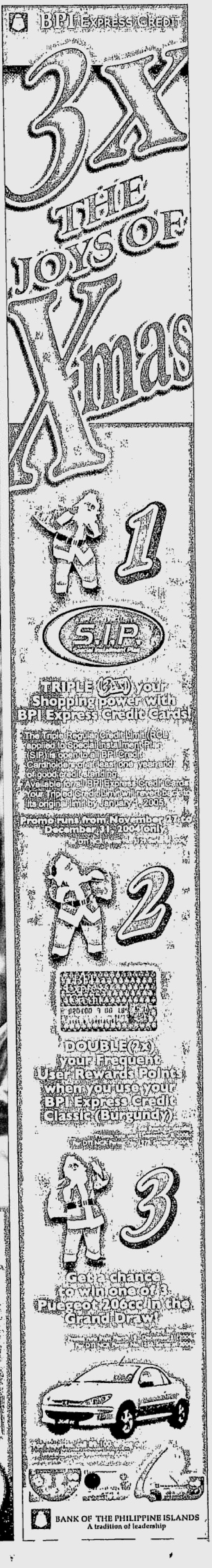
BREATHTAKING SHOWS
DOG SHOWS
BALANCING ACTS
BALLOON SHOWS

SANTA VISITS THE SMART KID BOOTH
ACROBATS
CONTORTIONIST
OUTDOOR MOVIE SCREENINGS

SMART kid
The FIRST Celfone for Kids
Prepaid

POWER PLANT MALL
AT ROCKWELL

I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!



BPI Express Credit

3X THE JOYS OF Xmas

1

S.I.P.

TRIPLE (3x) your Shopping power with BPI Express Credit Cards!

The Triple Regular Credit Limit (RCL) applied to Special Installment Plan (SIP) is open to all BPI Credit Cardholders of at least one year and of good credit standing.
Available for all BPI Express Credit Cards. Your Tripled Credit Limit will revert back to its original limit by January 1, 2005.

Promo runs from November 27 to December 31, 2004 only.

2

DOUBLE (2x) your Frequent User Rewards Points when you use your BPI Express Credit Classic (Burgundy)

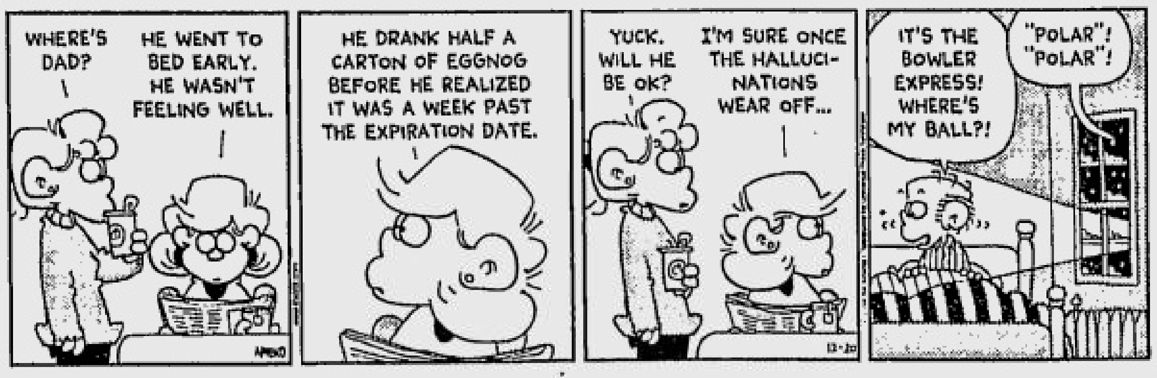
3

Get a chance to win one of 3 Puegeot 206cc in the Grand Draw!

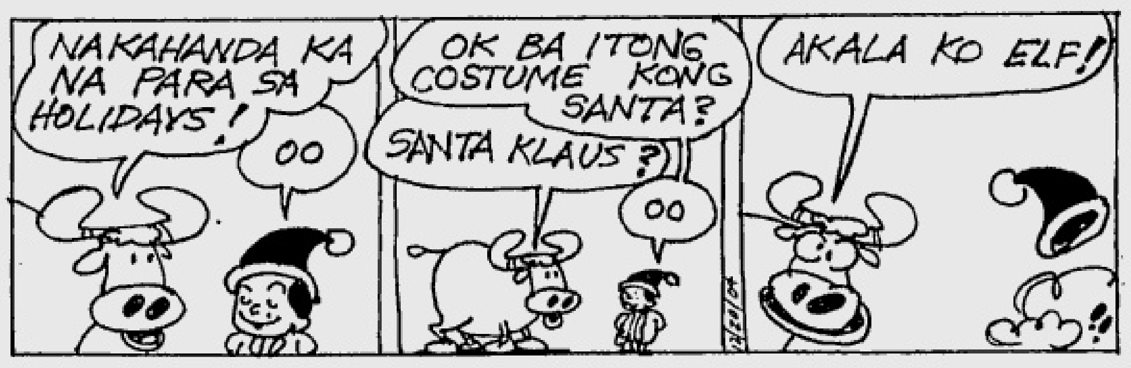
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004

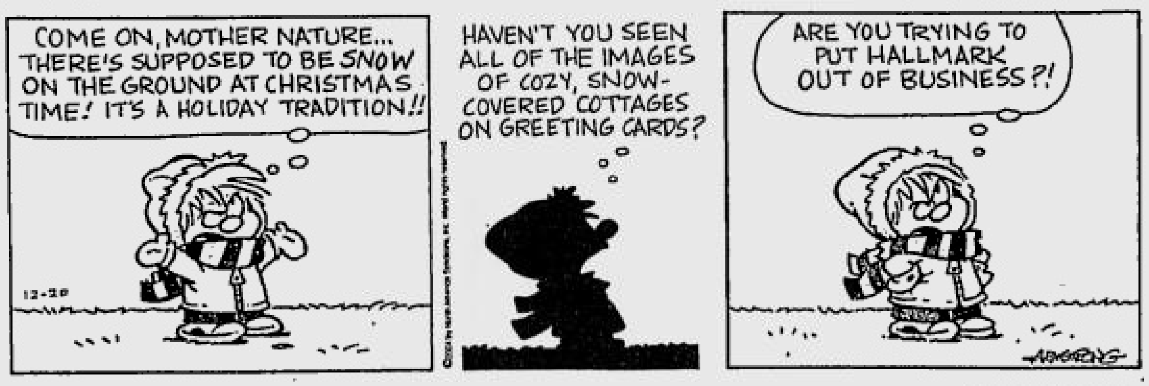
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


WHERE'S DAD?
HE WENT TO BED EARLY. HE WASN'T FEELING WELL.
HE DRANK HALF A CARTON OF EGGNOG BEFORE HE REALIZED IT WAS A WEEK PAST THE EXPIRATION DATE.
YUCK. WILL HE BE OK?
I'M SURE ONCE THE HALLUCINATIONS WEAR OFF...
IT'S THE BOWLER EXPRESS! WHERE'S MY BALL?!
"POLAR"! "POLAR"!
AMEND
12-20

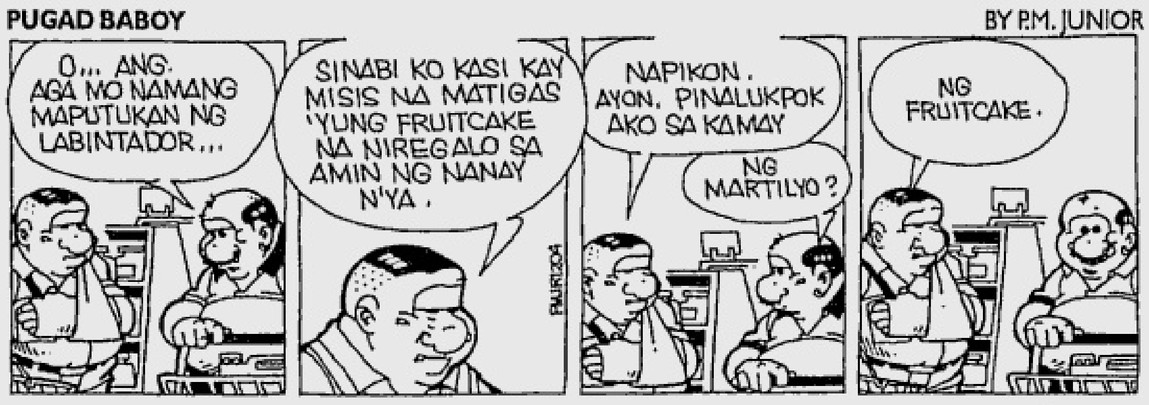
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


NAKAHANDA KA NA PARA SA HOLIDAYS!
OO
OK BA ITONG COSTUME KONG SANTA?
SANTA KLAUS?
OO
AKALA KO ELF!

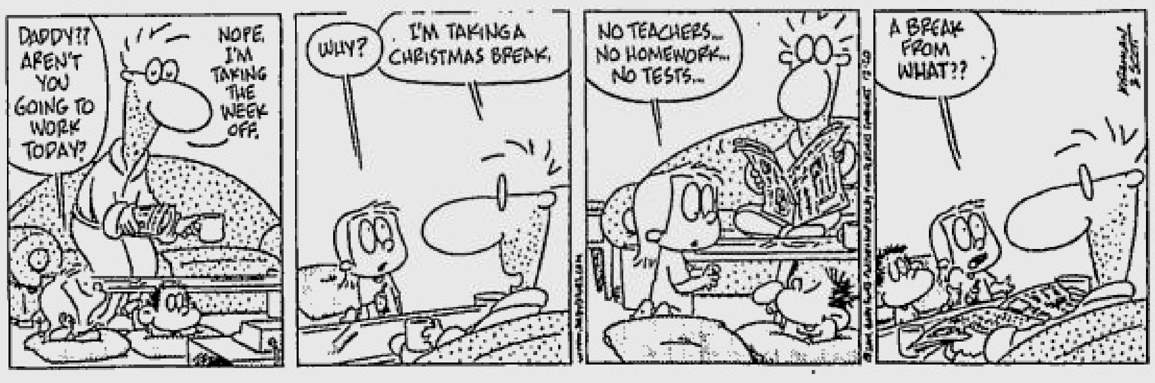
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


COME ON, MOTHER NATURE... THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE SNOW ON THE GROUND AT CHRISTMAS TIME! IT'S A HOLIDAY TRADITION!!
12-20
HAVEN'T YOU SEEN ALL OF THE IMAGES OF COZY, SNOW-COVERED COTTAGES ON GREETING CARDS?
ARE YOU TRYING TO PUT HALLMARK OUT OF BUSINESS?!
ARMSTRONG

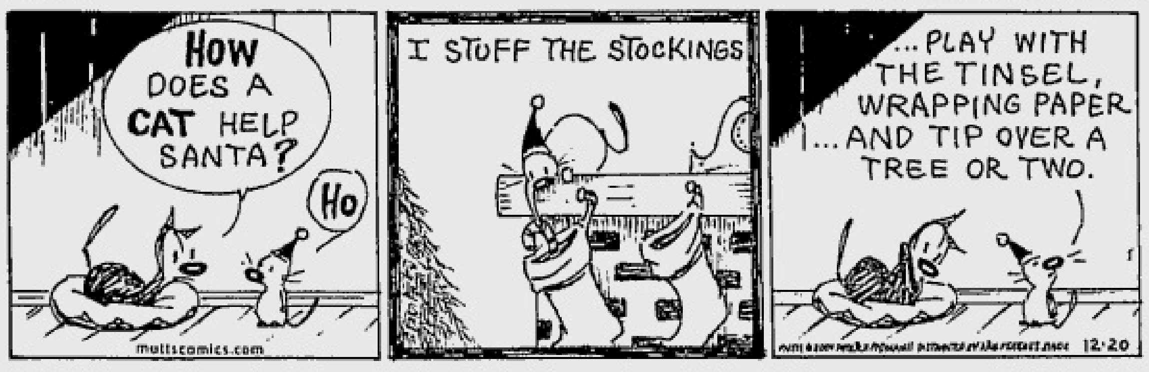
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


O... ANG AGA MO NAMANG MAPUTUKAN NG LABINTADOR...
SINABI KO KASI KAY MISIS NA MATIGAS 'YUNG FRUITCAKE NA NIREGALO SA AMIN NG NANAY N'YA.
NAPIKON. AYON, PINALUKPOK AKO SA KAMAY
NG MARTILYO?
NG FRUITCAKE.

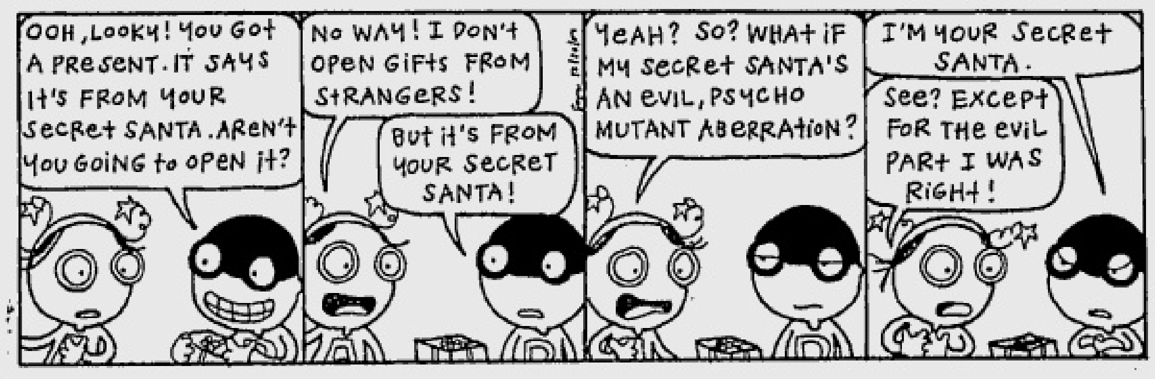
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


DADDY?? AREN'T YOU GOING TO WORK TODAY?
NOPE. I'M TAKING THE WEEK OFF.
WHY?
I'M TAKING A CHRISTMAS BREAK.
NO TEACHERS... NO HOMEWORK... NO TESTS...
A BREAK FROM WHAT??

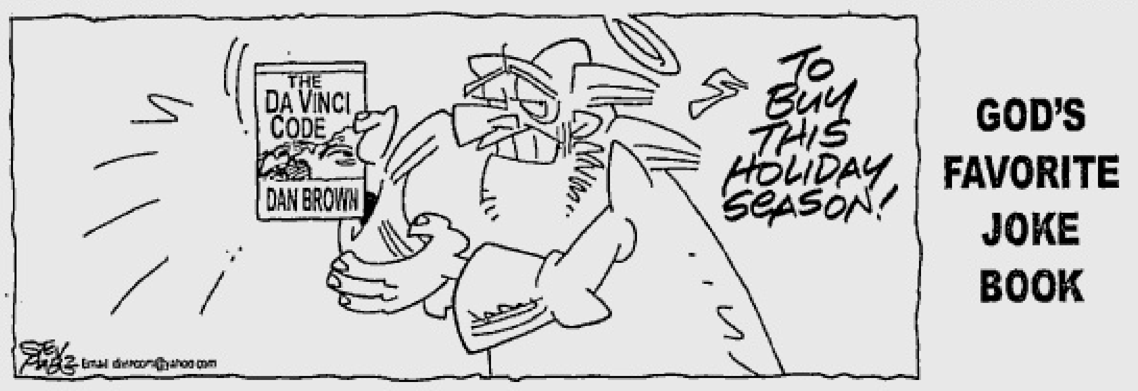
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HOW DOES A CAT HELP SANTA?
HO
I STUFF THE STOCKINGS
...PLAY WITH THE TINSEL, WRAPPING PAPER ...AND TIP OVER A TREE OR TWO.
muttscomics.com
12·20

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OOH, LOOKY! YOU GOT A PRESENT. IT SAYS IT'S FROM YOUR SECRET SANTA. AREN'T YOU GOING TO OPEN IT?
NO WAY! I DON'T OPEN GIFTS FROM STRANGERS!
BUT IT'S FROM YOUR SECRET SANTA!
YEAH? SO? WHAT IF MY SECRET SANTA'S AN EVIL, PSYCHO MUTANT ABERRATION?
I'M YOUR SECRET SANTA.
SEE? EXCEPT FOR THE EVIL PART I WAS RIGHT!

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE DA VINCI CODE
DAN BROWN
TO BUY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!
GOD'S FAVORITE JOKE BOOK

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a curious, exploring mind. You're bright, quick and impulsive. Your ideas generate lots of activity. You love to dive into new areas of study and exploration. You study the mind with your head in the clouds and your feet planted firmly on the ground. An important choice awaits you this year. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: John Spencer, actor; Billy Bragg, musician; Jenny Agutter, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Remember to be patient with others. It's easy for you to fly off the handle. But anger serves no purpose except to make everyone miserable.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be careful about getting stuck in your velvet rut. This can happen because you like a predictable outcome. (You're not keen on surprises.) But life is full of surprises!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Because you flit from activity to activity, from person to person, it's not easy to be contented. It's true there is no end to "better," but that's the way life works.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You stay in the wrong relationships too long. That's because you have a hard time letting go of anything (even junk!). Sometimes you have to let go.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your pride can often prevent you from doing what you want to do. It could also make you do things you don't want to do. Doesn't sound too helpful, does it?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): In your quest for perfection, the operative word constantly in your mind is "imperfect." You tend to look at something and think, "What's wrong with this picture?" Relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You know you can't please everyone all time—why bother trying? If you please yourself most of the time, you'll please the majority of those around you. Try it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You tend to see things in black-and-white terms. You immediately like someone or not. But life is actually shades of gray. (Do you think you might be a bit too extreme?)

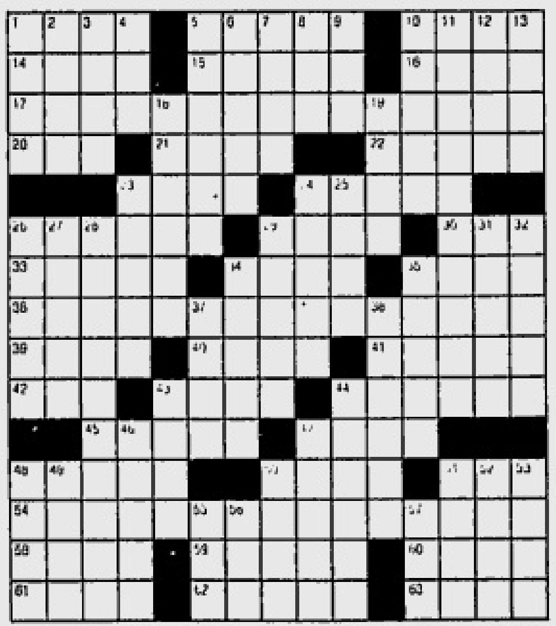
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Optimism is a wonderful thing, but realism is valuable too. It's important to remember not to promise more than you can deliver.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Fear of rejection and fear of failure often hold you back. In this way, you are your greatest enemy. Try to be bolder about going after what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's curious: Taurus has the reputation for being stubborn, but you are the most stubborn sign of all. You just hide it cleverly. (Plus, you're very bright.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Don't fall into the trap of feeling victimized about life. It's easy for you to think you "always" get something or you "never" get something.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR

12/20/04

ACROSS
1 First Lady Laura
5 Word with engine or bath
10 Russian ruler
14 Clearasil's target
15 Analyze, as a sentence
16 Gumbo veggie
17 Goof off among
20 Turn left!
21 Sea eagles
22 Russo and Descartes
23 Mug or kisser
24 Muffler's cousin
26 Columnist on language
29 Thailand, once
30 Track circuit
33 "The George and __ Show"
34 Catcher's need
35 Passport stamp
36 Delight
39 __ Saint Laurent
40 Carpets
41 Singer John
42 Agt.
43 Military installation
44 Wistful
45 Tenancy period
47 Wag
48 Gather together
50 El __, TX
51 Fri. follower
54 Enjoy ultimate satisfaction
58 Noted film critic
59 Haste outcome, perhaps
60 Hook's right-hand man
61 Ms. enclosure
62 Perfume compound
63 Trumpet or trombone

DOWN
1 "Goldberg Variations" composer
2 Bruins' home
3 Winter white
4 Do ax work
5 Scanty
6 Mountain lakes
7 Greek Cupid
8 Tempe sch.
9 Fellows
10 Sears, for one
11 Misers
12 Comic Johnson
13 College cheers
18 Type of network
19 Apothecary measure
23 Reddish colors
24 Locations
25 Webber musical
26 Half-goat man
27 __ and well
28 Welders' protection
29 Char slightly
31 Fancy tie
32 Golfer Stewart
34 Cursor mover
35 Bona fide
37 Times of note
38 El __ del Caudillo, Spain
43 Wild party
44 Poison-detection job
46 Cosmetician Lauder
47 Social class
48 Turkish titles
49 Byte or cycle lead-in
50 Previous
51 Type of wrestling
52 "Ain't She Sweet?" songwriter
53 Afterwards
55 Female sheep
56 __ Cruces, NM
57 End of a cigar

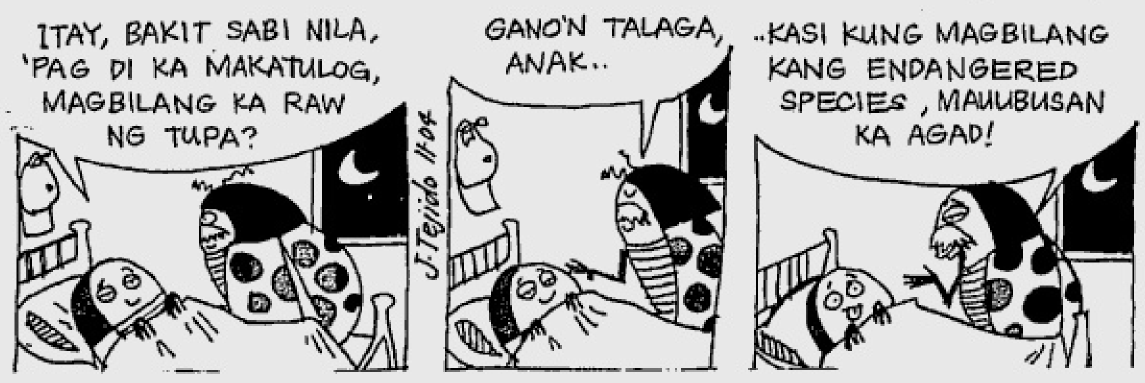
Saturday's Puzzle Solved

P	E	T	U	L	A	C	L	A	R	K	■	G	I	B
O	V	E	R	A	N	D	O	V	E	R	■	A	R	A
P	E	R	E	S	T	R	O	I	K	A	■	R	R	S
■	■	■	■	T	I	O	■	D	I	M	■	B	E	T
A	M	A	L	G	A	M	S	■	N	E	P	A	L	I
L	I	N	E	A	R	■	A	N	D	R	O	G	E	N
A	S	T	A	S	■	F	O	U	L	■	D	E	V	A
S	R	A	■	P	A	R	T	N	E	R	■	C	A	D
K	E	G	S	■	D	U	O	S	■	A	D	A	N	O
A	P	O	T	H	E	G	M	■	E	V	I	N	C	E
R	O	N	D	E	L	■	E	C	L	I	P	S	E	S
A	R	I	■	T	A	C	■	O	A	S	■	■	■	■
N	T	S	■	M	I	C	R	O	P	H	O	N	E	S
G	E	T	■	A	D	V	E	R	S	E	N	E	S	S
E	D	S	■	N	E	I	S	S	E	R	I	V	E	R

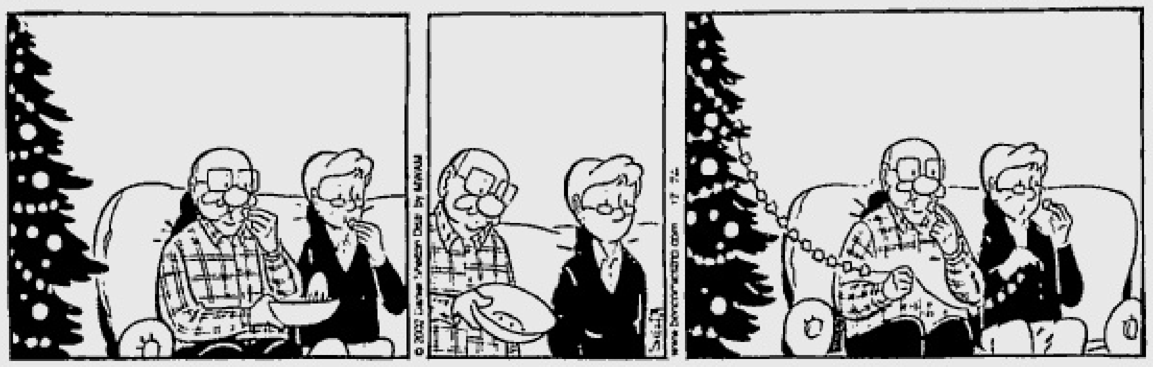
(C)2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved

12/20/04

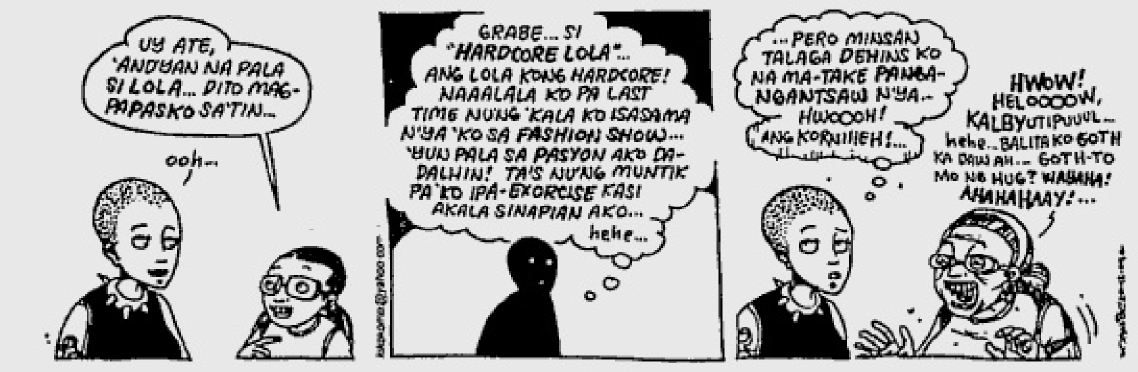
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ITAY, BAKIT SABI NILA, 'PAG DI KA MAKATULOG, MAGBILANG KA RAW NG TUPA?
GANO'N TALAGA, ANAK..
..KASI KUNG MAGBILANG KANG ENDANGERED SPECIES, MAUUBUSAN KA AGAD!
J. Tejido 11·04

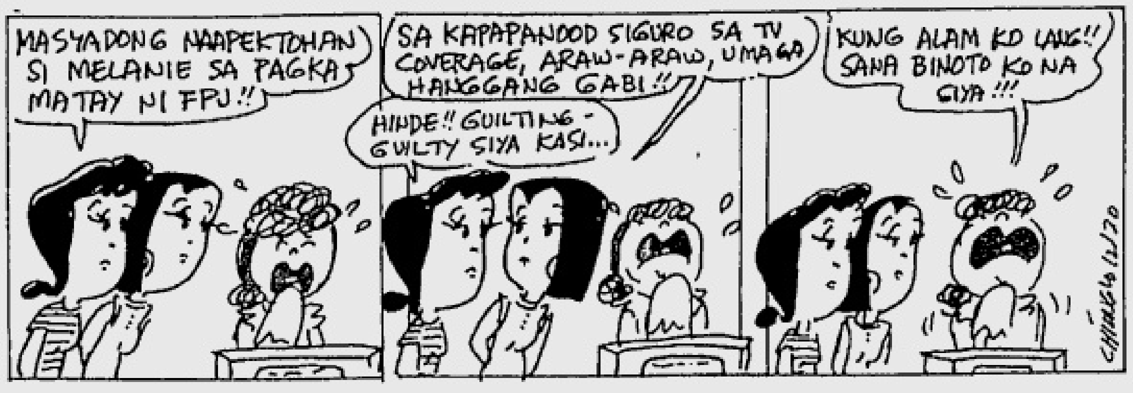
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



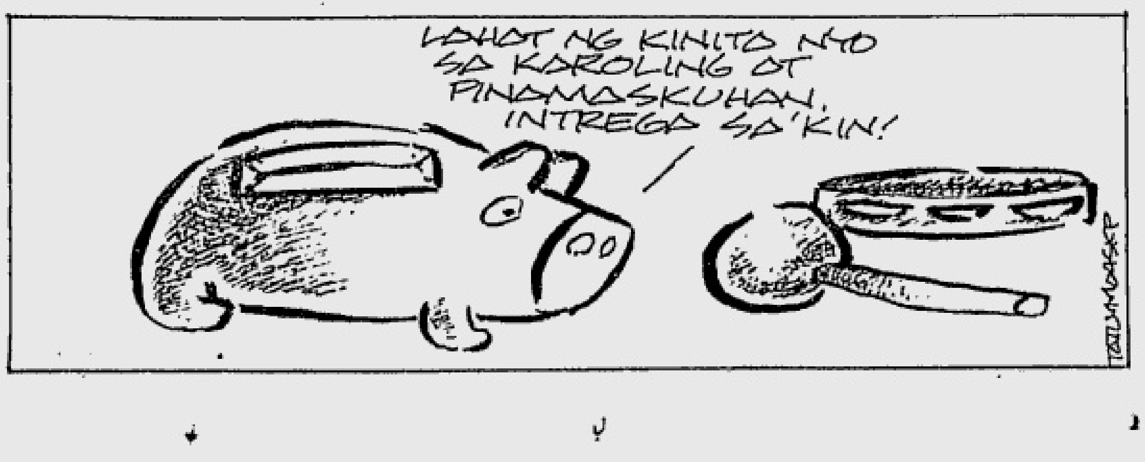
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


UY ATE, 'ANDYAN NA PALA SI LOLA... DITO MAGPAPASKO SA'TIN...
ooh..
GRABE... SI "HARDCORE LOLA"... ANG LOLA KONG HARDCORE! NAAALALA KO PA LAST TIME NUNG 'KALA KO ISASAMA N'YA 'KO SA FASHION SHOW... 'YUN PALA SA PASYON AKO DADALHIN! TA'S NUNG MUNTIK PA 'KO IPA-EXORCISE KASI AKALA SINAPIAN AKO... hehe...
...PERO MINSAN TALAGA DEHINS KO NA MA-TAKE PANGANGANTSAW N'YA.. HWOOOH! ANG KORNIIIEH!...
HWOW! HELOOOOW, KALBYUTIPUUUL... hehe.. BALITA KO GOTH KA DAW AH... GOTH-TO MO NG HUG? WAHAHA! AHAHAHAAY!...

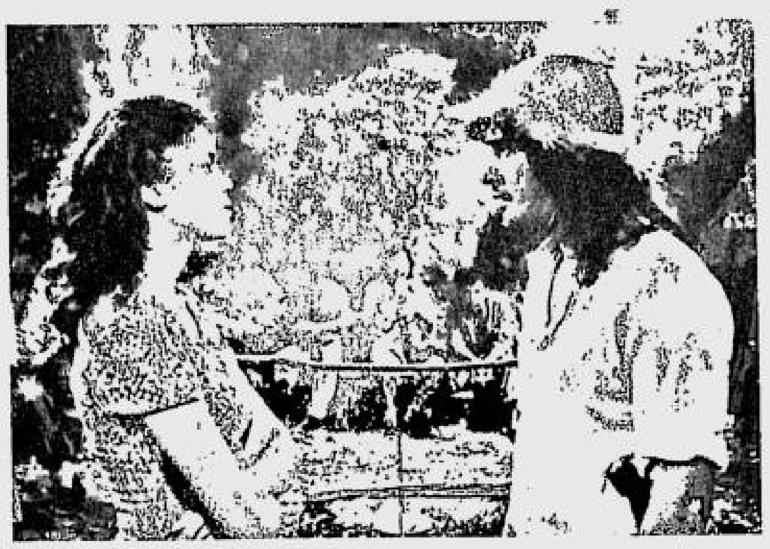
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MASYADONG NAAPEKTOHAN SI MELANIE SA PAGKAMATAY NI FPJ!!
SA KAPAPANOOD SIGURO SA TV COVERAGE, ARAW-ARAW, UMAGA HANGGANG GABI!!
HINDE!! GUILTING-GUILTY SIYA KASI...
KUNG ALAM KO LANG!! SANA BINOTO KO NA SIYA!!!
CHIONGLO 11/20

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


LAHAT NG KINITA NYO SA KAROLING AT PINAMASKUHAN, INTREGA SA'KIN!

MONTANO directs Daria Ramirez in the haunting funeral scene of "Panaghoy Sa Suba".



MONTANO stars opposite Juliana Palermo

Artists go natural

From page D1

than two kilometers to get to the open part of the road, I frantically called Irene M. Araneta for help.

Licad had an early morning flight to New York the next day for a recital.

An hour later, a helicopter arrived at the nearby Bagabag airport. Licad's son marked his 16th birthday riding a rescue helicopter from Nueva Vizcaya to Manila.

Indeed, Nature's fury does not spare anyone.

This is why Odette Alcantara has worked to raise the public's consciousness about the need to preserve the environment. She hosts house concerts, mobilizes the arts sector, and has formed the Artists for the Environment.

Licad played Schumann's "Widmung" in one of the group's get-togethers. When a brownout occurred in the middle of the piece, columnist Conrad de Quiros said he saw a glimpse of heaven.

Tribute to nature

One of the films in the forthcoming Metro Manila Film Festival pays a haunting and deeply lyrical tribute to Mother Nature. Cesar Montano's "Panaghoy sa Suba" (Wail on the River) shows how life in a village is protected by a river that becomes a living witness to transitions in the community's life—before, during and after the war.

This is a quiet but powerful film capturing Bohol's well-preserved environment. That a popular actor would take up the cudgels for the environment speaks well of Montano, who has received one of the highest awards given to a Boholano by his province's local government.

He shared the award with the famous Loboc Children's Choir.

"Panaghoy" was filmed along Loboc River in the town of the same name. For the film's musical scoring, Nonong Buencamino (he did the superb musical scoring for "Jose Rizal," "Sa Pusod ng Dagat," "Muro-Ami" and "Bagong Buwan") features the Loboc Children's Choir in one of the highlights.

Among the most riveting sequences of the film are the funeral (of a villager played by Daria Ramirez) by the river; Montano making love to a village maiden (Juliana Palermo) on a boat by the river, and marauding Japanese soldiers entering the river at the start of the Occupation.

In this film, Montano depicts a village where inhabitants are at peace with nature.

It would be dreadful if people also forget to care for this river and the horrible images of Infanta and Real in Quezon province are repeated.

For its beautiful tribute to Mother Earth, "Panaghoy sa Suba" should be cited by the Artists for the Environment as Best Film of the Year.

Here and There

Oliver Salonga, two-time first-prize winner in the National Musical Competition for Young Artists, again won the annual concerto competition at Lynn University in Florida. He bested pianists, violinists, cellists and other instrumentalists. His winning piece was Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2.

Last year, he was the top choice among pianists who played Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 but lost to a violinist.

A member of the jury from Miami said it was the first time she heard a major talent in that area. She even asked Salonga to transfer to the University of Miami. Last September, Licad offered to coach Salonga for free for three weeks.

The bad acoustics (this is an understatement) of the Carlos P. Romulo Hall of RCBC did not do justice to Nena del Rosario Villanueva's playing of Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) under the baton of violinist Roni Rogoff.

How she was able to focus without a decent sound from the orchestra was a big wonder. An MPO musician said playing in that hall was sheer torture. The hall is visually pleasing but a nightmare acoustically.

CARIDAD Sanchez in a scene from a period film

CECILE Licad with son Otavio in a massive landslide in Banaue last year.

Quality music instruments at affordable prices

BEHRINGER products have been available for the past couple of years through its distributor, Joint Venture, under the direction of Joel Yabut. These products are also available at Yupangco stores.

The Behringer-Yupangco cooperation has just been officially launched and its products will be available in the Perfect Pitch stores.

One of the products is the Guitar Starter Pack, which costs P6,300. It contains an electric guitar, an amplifier with 27 different sounds and accessories such as bell, carrying bag, cables and song book.

Founded by Uli Behringer in 1989, Behringer develops and manufactures technologically advanced products with exceptional value. Today, Behringer is a worldwide market leader and one of the fastest-growing audio companies. The Behringer Group of Companies distributes its products in over 120 countries. It ranks No. 15 among the largest pro-audio companies in the world.

Uli Behringer has changed the pro audio industry. In the early '90s he recognized the value and need to "play globally" by designing products in Germany while moving the sourcing and manufacturing arm to China.

Behringer further revolutionized the industry by offering previously high-priced professional equipment at consumer prices. He introduced the company's success formula "Double-the-Features-Half-the-Price."

Behringer was introduced to the world of music and electronics in his very early years. He later received a Master's degree in Sound Engineering and is a classically trained pianist with a passion for jazz.

Glow-in-the-dark works on display

VICTOR Bella is holding his sixth solo art exhibit at MC Home Depot at 32nd St. and Bonifacio Blvd. near The Fort.

The exhibit features glow-in-the-dark acrylic glass paintings, flower dome sculptures, and nude crystal sculptures.

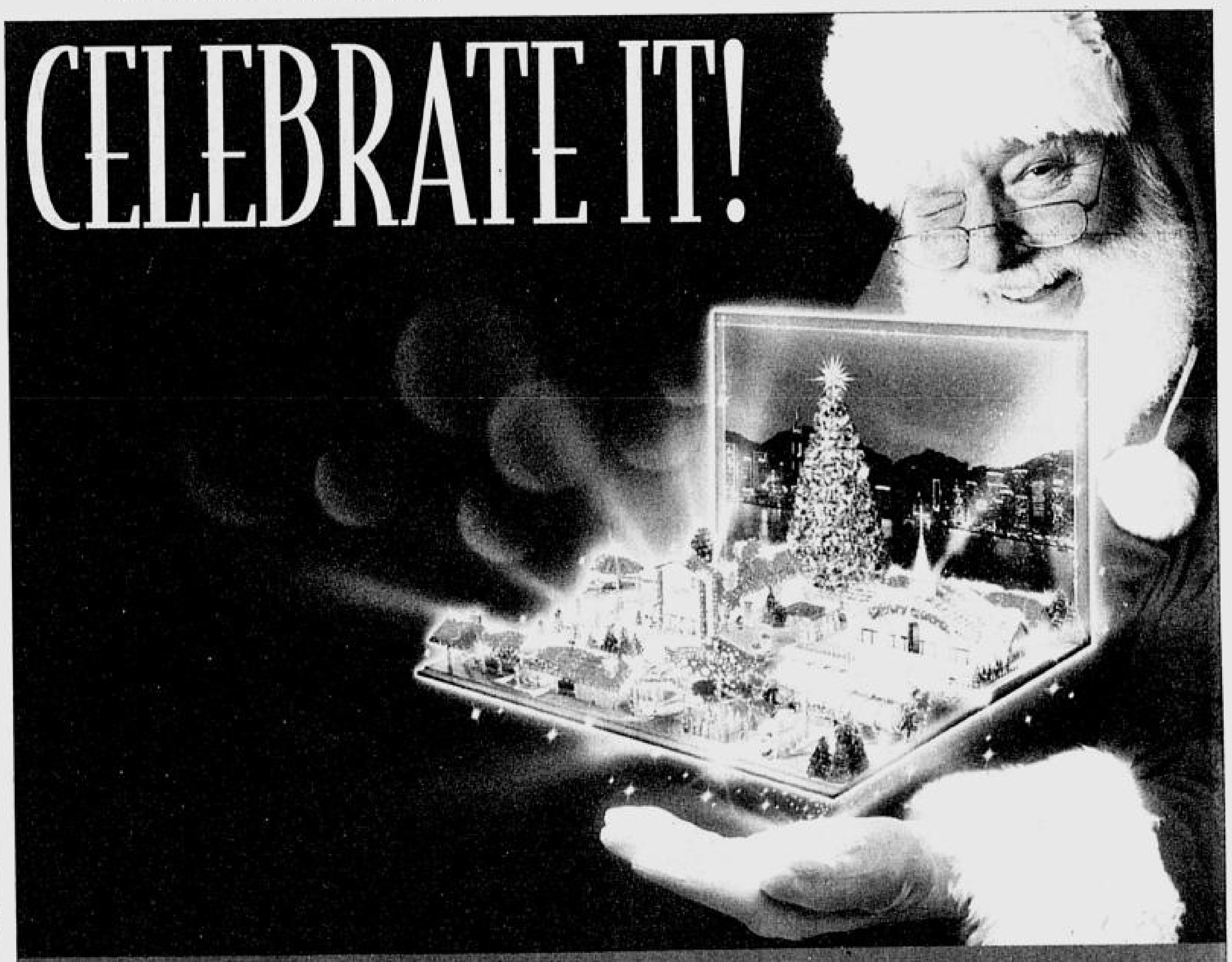
The artist offers both glow-in-the-dark and non-glow-at-night decorating and painting services for glass windows, panels, and walls. The artist uses glow in the dark resins to produce this rare artistic look.

The exhibit runs until Dec. 22.

Bella is a graduate of Fine Arts from Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts in the Netherlands.

Viewing hours at Home Depot are 1-7 p.m. Bella's glow-in-the-dark flower dome is also on display in Heritage Gallery at SM Megamall.

Call 09204880029.


CELEBRATE IT!

Visit Hong Kong Now- Hong Kong WinterFest Package fm US$225*

Hong Kong WinterFest
26 Nov 2004 - 02 Jan 2005

Santa's Town is coming to Hong Kong this year and Santa wants you to join him for a special house-warming from 26 November 2004 to 2 January 2005. You're invited to a joyous celebration when Santa turns Central, a world renowned business district, into a festive Santa's Town. You'll find endless enjoyment at the Snowy Chapel, Santa's Lodge, Santa's Workshop, Giant Music Box, and of course, the Dazzling Christmas Tree. Take a stroll down the romantic Mistletoe Boulevard and don't forget to make a wish in Santa's Town.

What's more, stunning decorations and Christmas lighting will enhance the magnificent harbour view along the glorious skyline. And with the Hong Kong WinterFest Passport to Amazing Offers, your holiday will be packed with incredible bonuses at great stores and restaurants accredited by the *Quality Tourism Services Scheme.*

So enjoy this heart-warming season and avail of Cathay Pacific's "Visit Hong Kong Now - Hong Kong WinterFest Package" which includes:

- Roundtrip Economy Class air ticket on Cathay Pacific
- 2 Nights hotel accommodation on ROOM ONLY basis
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers by seat-in-coach

Terms and conditions
• Tickets must be purchased between 01 December 2004 and 11 March 2005. • Promo rate is only valid for travel departing Manila from 01 December 2004 and 11 March 2005 only. (Travel must be completed by 15 March 2005. For some hotels, travel must be completed by 28 February 2005.) Peak season surcharge applies for travel departing 24-31 December 2004. ‡ Tickets are non-endorsable, non-reroutable, and non-refundable. • Tickets are restricted to a minimum of 2 days and maximum of 8 days stay. • Marco Polo Club/Asia Miles mileage accrual (on hotel accommodation) is not applicable. • No change names, flights, hotels and dates permitted once the booking is confirmed and the tickets are issued.
• Value added benefits by the hotels are subject to their own availability and cannot be guaranteed by Cathay Pacific Airways.
• Any passenger who chooses to forfeit his/her hotel booking, or transfers, is not entitled to any payment or compensation from Cathay Pacific. • Maximum of two adults and one child per room. • Rate does not include the Hong Kong Security Tax.
• Other terms and conditions apply.

*Rates differ for travel departing Cebu. For more details, contact your travel agent or Cathay Pacific 02-7570888 (Manila), 32-2313747 (Cebu) or through our general sales agent RRS at 82-2228901

HONG KONG
LIVE IT. LOVE IT!

For more information about Hong Kong, please visit DiscoverHongKong.com

CATHAY PACIFIC
www.cathaypacific.com
Supported by
HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD
Asia's world city
HONG KONG

Globe
PLATINUM

Equestrian elite grace the first Globe Platinum Cup

Manila's elite circle gathered at the Alabang Country Club recently for a weekend of family fun and equestrian excellence as the country's top bets and promising young riders vied for the first ever Globe Platinum Cup. A prestigious event highlighting the country's show-jumping calendar, the Globe Platinum Cup is the only local competition that is of international standards. Designed by an international course designer, the courses used international standard equipment as designated by Federation Equerstre International rules. Organized by Los Tamaraos Equestrian and Polo Center, the event was also a fundraiser for the Saint Rita Orphanage, an organization fostering care for less fortunate children.

Excitement was at fever pitch as the riders – consisting of scions of the country's privileged and powerful – took their places in each of the show-jumping categories. Neophyte riders got a taste of competition as they vied for the Los Tamaraos 0.85 Meter Speed Class and 1.0 Meter Speed Class, while more experienced show-jumpers battled it out for the 1.10 and 1.20 Meter Speed Classes sponsored by Metro Magazine. World-class equestrienne and Globe Platinum endorser Toni Leviste romped off with the 1.2 Meter Speed Class trophy, while Mateo and Diego Lorenzo, sons of fellow Platinum endorser Martin Lorenzo, were victorious in the 1.0 and 1.1 Meter Speed Classes, respectively.

Globe Platinum presented four of the highly anticipated showjumping events. Natalie Zani onboard Geronimo took first place at the 0.9 Meter Class, while Diego Lorenzo and Intrigue swept the 1.05 and 1.15 Meter Class divisions. But the most thrilling contest by far was the Globe Platinum 1.25 Meter Class. Fiercely fought out by the country's top ranked riders, the competition ended in a four-way tie between veterans Leviste on Globe Platinum Leap of Faith, Mikee Cojuangco Jaworski on Rustic Rouge and Luisita, Janine Oppen Santos on Drift, and promising young rider Joker Arroyo.

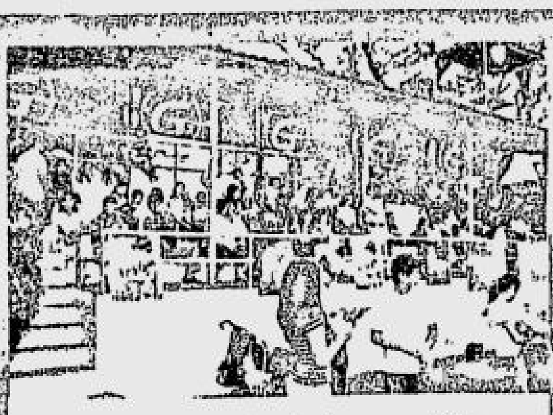
Spectators were treated to exclusive activities all throughout the two-day affair. Globe Platinum subscribers and their families were treated to complimentary pony rides and free access to the kiddie fun fair, which featured giant trampolines and the one-of-a-kind Titanic slide. Parents were delighted to see their little boys and girls sashay down the ramp donning the latest outfits from Big & Small Co., Spin, and Orange Juice during a mini fashion show after the competition.

The elite equestrian scene matches the sophistication and cultivated sensibilities of Globe Platinum subscribers. Existing Globe subscribers with a minimum monthly usage of P4,000 (excluding taxes and adjustments) for the last twelve months and with good credit standing are qualified for Globe Platinum membership, as are new subscribers of a G-Plan or fully consumable G-Flex Plan at P5,000, P7,000, or P10,000. Special privileges include consumable roaming and IDD charges for all subscribers. Subscribe to Globe Platinum now and gain exclusive access to sophisticated sporting events such as the Globe Platinum Cup.

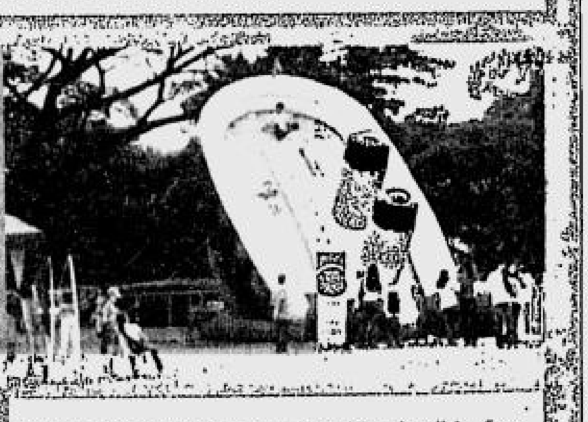
Globe Platinum Cup champions Toni Leviste, Mikee Cojuangco Jaworski, Natalie Zani, and Globe Platinum subscriber Yvette Lopez show off their winning form.

Friends, champion riders and Globe Platinum subscribers Toni Leviste and Mikee Cojuanco Jaworski with their winning horses Globe Platinum Leap of Faith and Rustic Rouge.

Mateo Lorenzo, son of Globe Platinum endorser Martin Lorenzo, leaps to victory onboard his trusty steed Buddy.



Spectators watch the riveting competition.



Young kids enjoyed the unique Titanic slide, free for Globe Platinum subscribers and their families.

Stylish kids model the latest fashions from Spin, The Big & Small Co. and Orange Juice.

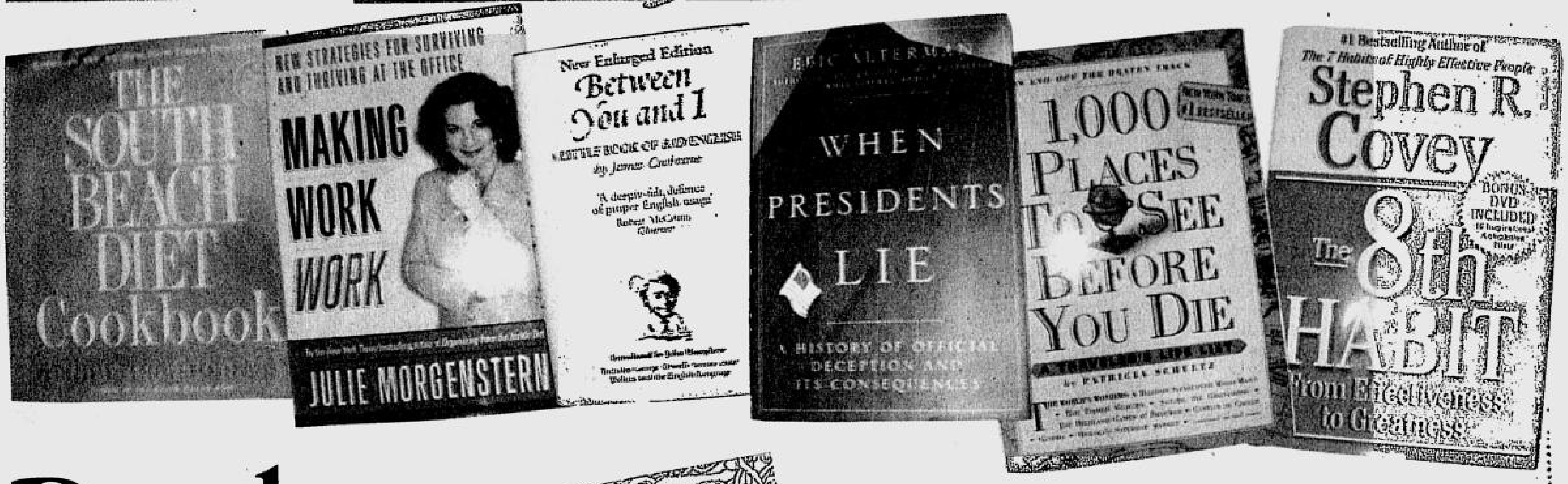
Trophies and medals for showjumping's finest.

Globe Platinum senior marketing manager Kristelle Dizon poses with the winners: (fr L-R, top) Toni Leviste, Margot Felix, Mikee Jaworski, Janine Santos, Yvette Lopez, (L-R, bottom): Diego Lorenzo, Natalie Zani, Nikki Revilla, Joker Arroyo, Alexis Cortes

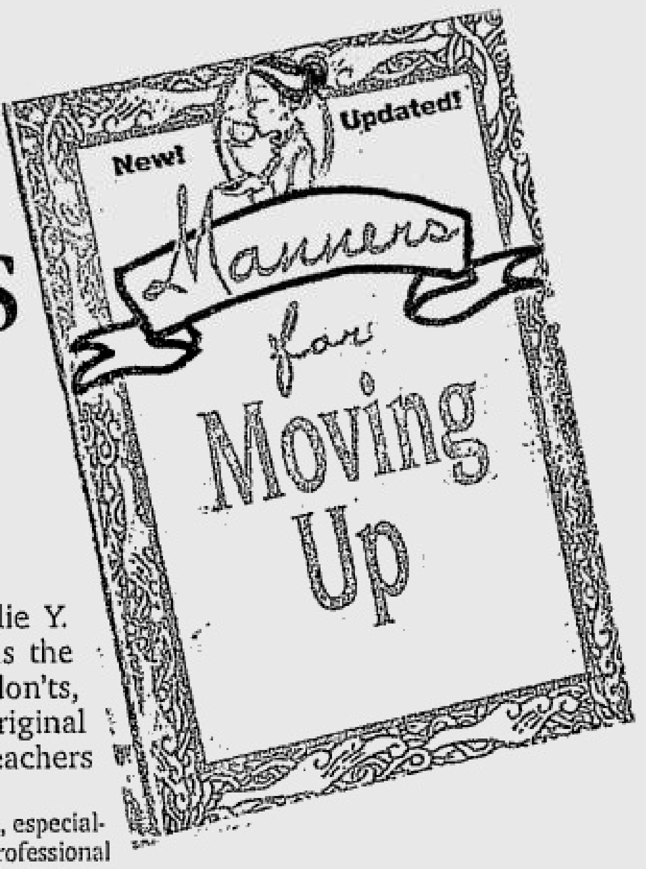
Photos taken by : Manot Montilla

Maligayang Pasko!!
mula sa
NIKON®
GAS STOVES

DUNKIN' DONUTS
Christmas Free!
6 pcs. Choco Bang Free!
when you buy a dozen Dunkin' Donuts
Promo period is from November 22 to December 31, 2004.


THE SOUTH BEACH DIET Cookbook
NEW STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVING AND THRIVING AT THE OFFICE
MAKING WORK WORK
JULIE MORGENSTERN
New Enlarged Edition
Between You and I
A LITTLE BOOK OF BAD ENGLISH
by James Cochrane
ERIC ALTERMAN
WHEN PRESIDENTS LIE
A HISTORY OF OFFICIAL DECEPTION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES
1,000 PLACES TO SEE BEFORE YOU DIE
A TRAVELER'S LIFE LIST
by PATRICIA SCHULTZ
#1 Bestselling Author of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
Stephen R. Covey
The 8th HABIT
From Effectiveness to Greatness
BONUS DVD INCLUDED

Books to give this Xmas


New!
Updated!
Manners for Moving Up

MANNERS for Moving Up, by Jullie Y. Daza. This updated edition retains the clarity and simplicity of dos and don'ts, tips and touches of humor that made the original edition a bestseller endorsed by parents, teachers and lecturers.

Although the book was written for kids—the shy ones, especially—and more kids (as in high school and college kids), professional lecturers use it as a guide in their training workshops for new hires and those preparing to work abroad.

Between You and I: A Little Book of Bad English, by James Cochrane. Includes George Orwell's famous essay "Politics and the English Language." This book is a nice surprise because much of what we usually think is 'bad' English is, it turns out, perfectly good. And vice-versa, as in phrases like the title, which sounds more learned than the common "you and me" but is, in fact, incorrect.

1,000 Places to See Before You Die: A Traveler's Life List, by Patricia Schultz. This NY Times No. 1 bestseller is a compilation of destinations on-and-off the beaten track from Europe, Africa and the Middle East to Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands to the US, Canada, Latin America, The Carribean, Bahamas and Bermuda. Quite expectedly, the Banaue Rice Terraces, Taal Volcano and Amanpulo merited mentions.

When Presidents Lie, A History of Official Deception and Its Consequences, by journalist and historian Eric Alterman. Examines four important presidential lies relating to matters of war and peace. The Yalta Conference, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Gulf of Tonkin incident, and the Central America wars of the 1980s represent unhappy turning points in American history and the misrepresentations made about them to the American public.

Making Work Work, New Strate-

BOOKS/E2

Support
RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES
RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES®

TM here!
METROBANK
For discounts, freebies, perks and fun.
New Kamameshi House
HAVANA
ABENSON

First Pinnacle
TEAKWOOD
collection
Wood has that warm and sensual feel, with a special soft touch
For you, First Pinnacle has selected the finest teak furniture
for your everyday comfort and pleasure.
Come & visit our showroom,
and let your imagination
guide you
VISIT OUR NEW SHOWROOM AT MARKET! MARKET!
TC-329, 3/L, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
Showroom 1: 4/L, bes. Gameworx, Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang
Tels.: (02) 771-0857 • 807-8571
Main Office: 60 C.B.T. Condominium, West Avenue, Quezon City
Tels.: (02) 3739797 • 4165218 - 19

A Figure Worth Looking!
Be A Total Stand-Out with BUTTOCKS AUGMENTATION W/ HYDROGEL
A MODERN-DAY ENHANCEMENT...
FOR A BEAUTY THAT IS A TOTAL STAND OUT!
OTHER SERVICES:
- Breast Augmentation
- Liposuction
- Nose Lift
- Eyebag Removal
- Double Eyelid
- Scar Revision
- Botox Injection
- Warts Removal
- Peeling & Body Bleaching
- Varicose Vein
- Facial Treatment
- Dermabrasion

FRANCINE PRIETO
MOVIE ACTRESS
Enhance
COSMETIC SURGERY & SKIN CARE CENTER
TRUST ONLY THE EXPERT CARE BY A QUALIFIED COSMETIC SURGEON
THE SM CITY NORTH EDSA ANNEX BUILDING BASEMENT LEVEL TEL. NO.: 920-9205
MAIN OFFICE: DAVID SURGI-CENTER #32 Times St. cor. West 4, Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Phils.
Tel. No.: 371-8189 • 411-0870 • 431-9342

Century Park Hotel

VARIOUS CHORALES WILL CREATE THE HOLIDAY MOOD WITH THEIR CHRISTMAS CAROLS
Friday • December 17
The Philippine Airlines Chorale
Saturday • December 18
The St. Theresa's College Chorale
Thursday • December 20
The La Salle Greenhills' Kundirana
Tuesday • December 21
The University of the East Chorale
Wednesday • December 22
The Dynamic Youth Chorale

CAFÉ IN THE PARK OFFERS YOU SPECIAL BUFFET ON CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY
Adult: P 825++/person,
children below 4ft in height: P 425

SANTA'S CORNER AT THE ATRIUM LOUNGE
Friday • December 24 • 12nn–1pm
Saturday • December 25 • 1pm–2pm
Sunday • December 26 • 1pm–2pm

A CHRISTMAS ROOM PACKAGE FOR THE FAMILY LIKE NO OTHER!
Stay for two nights in our Junior Suites or Park Tower Suites for only P 7,025++.

The Sounds & Lights of Christmas

TOP OF THE CENTURY
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY AT THE TOP OF THE CENTURY
Lady Chanteuse
Ms. Cathy Casuga
Minimum Beverage Consumption is
P 500++ from 7pm to 2am

Atrium Lounge
NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH AT THE ATRIUM LOUNGE
Atrium Lounge will provide entertainment and dance of the decades from 8:30PM to 1:30am with a minimum food and beverage consumption of P 400.

COUNTDOWN AT THE CENTURY!

599 P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila • Tel. (632) 528-8888 • Fax (632) 528-1811 • (632) 528-1812
E-mail: information@centurypark.com.ph • www.centurypark.com

For your true love,
a gift that lasts long after the
12 days of Christmas.
MY METROBANK FUN SAVERS CLUB PASSBOOK
For inquiries, visit any Metrobank branch
or call 898-8701 to 02.
You're in good hands with
METROBANK

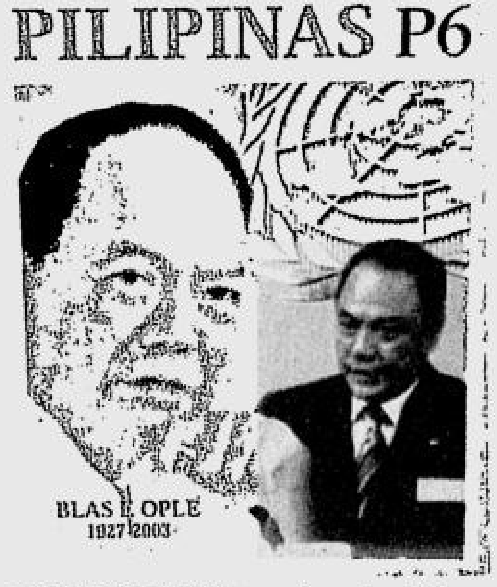
They remember him

By Linda B. Bolido

IN LIFE, Blas F. Ople had been a journalist, a politician, public servant. He rose from humble origins in Hagonoy, Bulacan to become a Cabinet member, a senator, the first Filipino president of the International Labor Conference and many other things in between.

Everything he had been in the past converge in the book "As We Remember Him", a collection of reminiscences by people he got to know in his various pursuits. The book was launched on Dec. 14 to mark the first death anniversary of Ople, who died on a plane while en route from Japan to Bahrain for a conference. The longest-serving labor secretary was then back in the Cabinet having given up his seat in the Senate to accept President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's offer to become her foreign affairs secretary.

Family, headed by his widow Susana Ople; friends and former colleagues gathered at Ople's tomb at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Makati City for a morning Mass and the launching of the book, a project initiated by daughter Susan Ople, currently labor undersecretary.



COMMEMORATIVE stamp honoring Ople

Edited by journalists Fred de la Rosa and Alfredo G. Rosario, who both served in the Ople-headed Department of Labor and Employment; and with a cover designed by old friend Mauro Malang Santos, "As We Remember Him," is a virtual gallery of who's who in media, government and politics.

The venerable Carmen "Chitang" Guerrero Nakpil talks about "My Rich Uncle," her former colleague in the old Roces-owned Manila Times group. But the gifts she received so generously from him "were mostly books... inscribed in his own fine handwriting, flowing with felicitous phrases."

Palanca award-winning short story writer Rony V. Diaz, board chair of the new Manila Times and who became the first director general of the National Manpower and Youth Council (now Technology and Skills Development Authority or TESDA), recalls that on his first meeting with the young Ople, the Bulakeño was soliciting signatures for a petition on behalf of tenant farmers of his province. "It (the petition) was an eloquent plea on behalf of all landless farmers not only in Bulacan, but all over Central Luzon," Diaz said. At the time, both he and Ople were on their way to Baguio for a conference of the College Editors Guild.

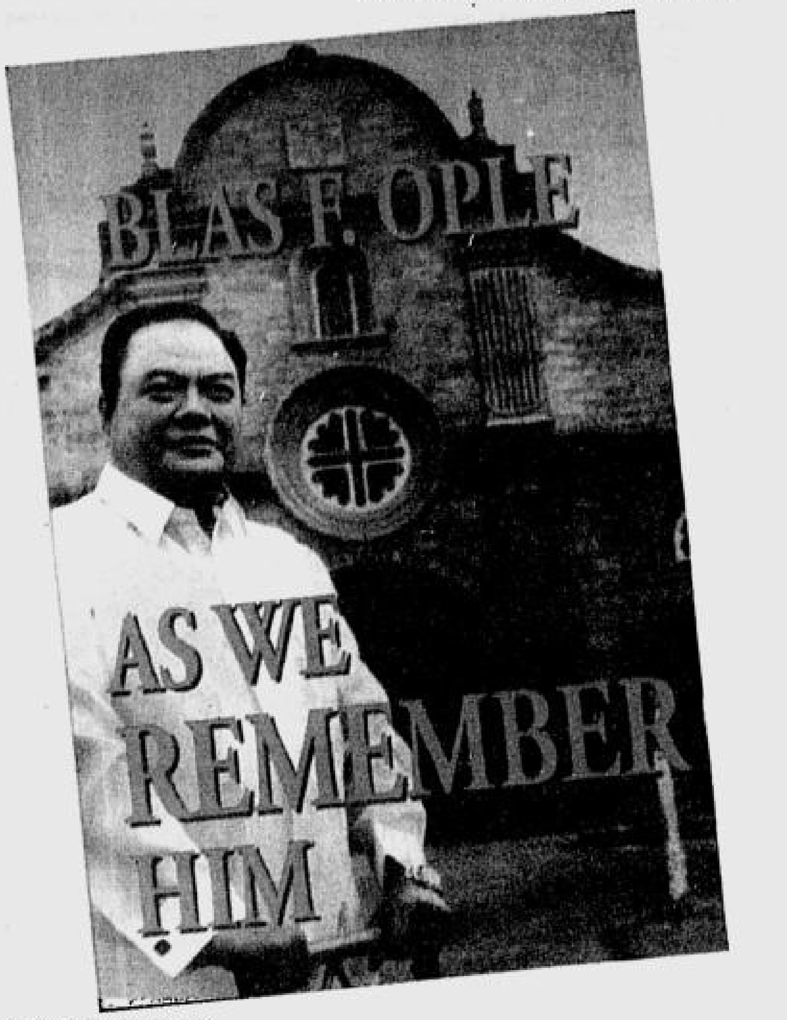
Former Supreme Court Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma, who was president of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, recalls how, when she was being personally maligned in media, to the extent of being called tanga, "No one came to my defense except my former (Constitutional) Commissioner Blas Ople, (then) Senate president pro tempore." In a public statement, Munoz-Palma says Ople, in tones that must have resonated in all corners, urged the person attacking her "to publicly apologize... for his derogatory remark... I don't know of any Filipino woman more deserving of respect than (her). To demean her is almost like profaning an altar."

Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti, who was president of the European Union in Manila when Ople was foreign affairs secretary, remembers, "To his efficiency, (he) added a great culture and a deep interest in European and Italian affairs in particular, ranging from the conservation of works of art to the casting of ballots by Italians abroad."

President Arroyo calls him the Father of Overseas Employment and the Filipino Statesman of the 21st century, who "epitomized, most of all, the brave, honest and sincere public servant who deservedly rests with our heroes."

Other contributors to "As We Remember Him" include National Artist Virgilio Almario; former Foreign Affairs Secretaries Delia Domingo Albert and Domingo Siazon, Jr.; publishers Napoleon Rama and Antonio L. Cabangon Chua; Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr.; Vice President Noli de Castro; Senate President Franklin M. Drilon; writers Juan T. Gatbonton and Yen Makabenta; former Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma; former senators Ernesto Herrera and Orlando Mercado; Senator Ramon Magsaysay, Jr.; former labor leaders Juan Tan and Democrito Mendoza; former journalist now Ambassador to Israel Antonio Modena; Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo; and Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas.

SUSANA V. Ople, widow of Blas F. Ople, thanks the board of the Philippine Postal Corporation for issuing a commemorative stamp honoring the late foreign affairs secretary.



ARTIST Malang, an old friend of Ople, did the cover design of the commemorative book.

Family and friends marked Ople's first death anniversary with the launch of a book

'Woman of Tammuz' and new edition of Sorsogon studies journal launched

"WOMEN of Tammuz" completes A. G. Uranza's tetralogy of novels, "Chronicles of the Changing Seasons," which is a creative rendition of the events of the last hundred years of the Philippine struggle to be free, to be truly independent, and to live in the dignity and self-respect.

The novel, along with the newest edition of "Sarabihon, A Journal of Sorsogon Studies," was launched recently.

"Women of Tammuz" is part of that broad fictional panorama recreated in Uranza's four novels through the eyes and heart of two families, showing with bold colorful strokes the most significant and perhaps the most tragic moments of our history.

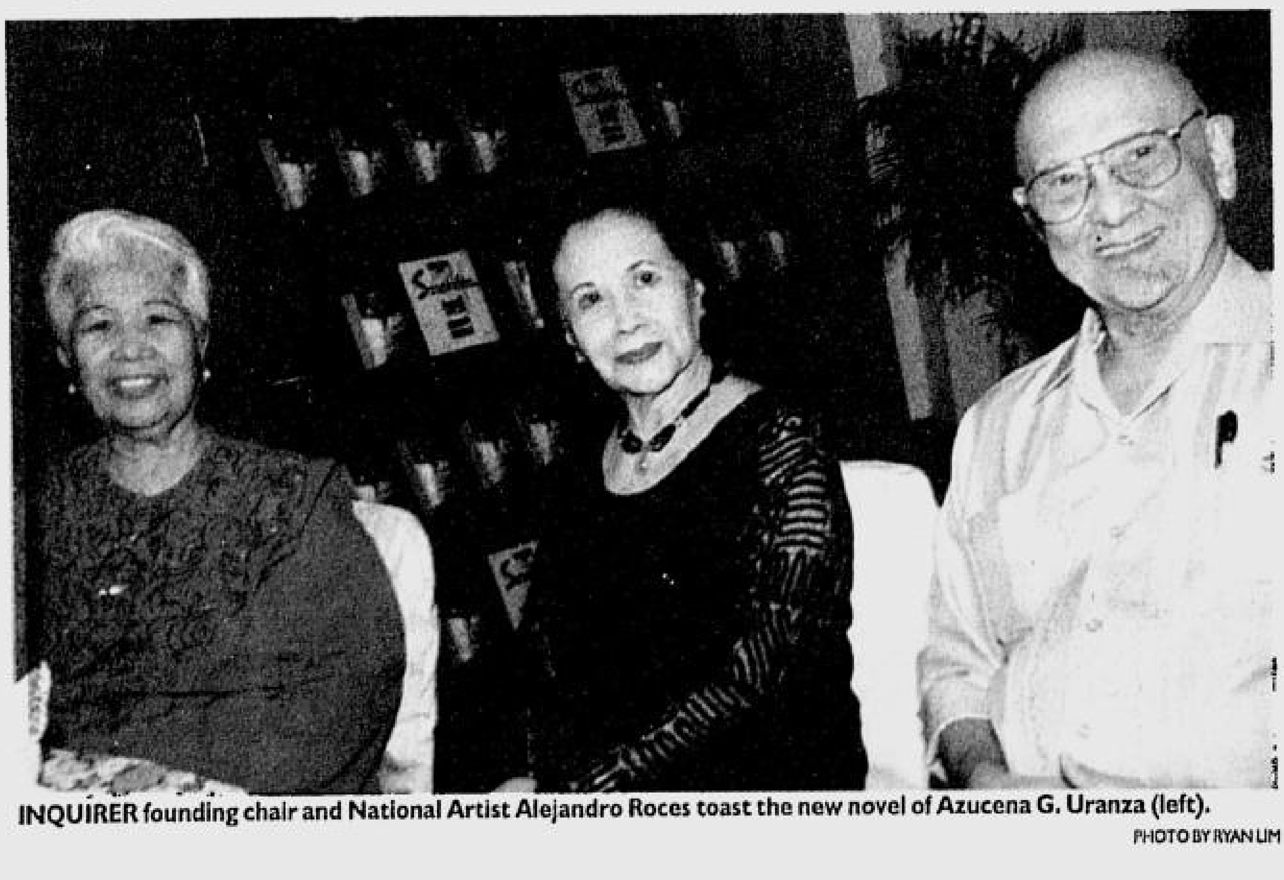
Chronologically, "Women of Tammuz" is the second book of the saga, and with this novel, the four significant periods of our recent history are finally completely etched in their clearest details: the Philippine Revolution and the Philippine-American War in "A Passing Season"; the horrors of war and the Japanese Occupation in "Women of Tammuz"; the evils and cruelty of a dictatorship in "Bamboo in the Wind"; and in "Feast of the Innocents"—the time of freedom and democracy—what we did with this great opportunity to make ourselves a people proud of its integrity and freedom.

The novel is available at Bookmark, The Filipino Bookstore, National Bookstore and Books for Less.

"Sarabihon" is published by the Sorsogon Heritage Society Inc. Call 3730814.

Sarabihon
A Passing Season
Women of Tammuz

URANZA'S tetralogy with editions of "Sarabihon" PHOTO BY RYAN LIM



INQUIRER founding chair and National Artist Alejandro Roces toast the new novel of Azucena G. Uranza (left).
PHOTO BY RYAN LIM

Inspirational book provides 'comfort'

AUTHOR Nelson Dy refreshes us with dewdrops of comfort from the Bible in "Finding Comfort," He tackles common basic human problems that often make up "the dark night of the soul": waiting, suffering, unhappiness, bitterness, doubt, even guilt.

Dy gives a set of touching vignettes: a woman trapped in a loveless marriage; a man spending the prime of his life at a desert in self-exile; a powerful man kept from fulfilling his greatest ambition; a bitter criminal at the end of his rope, and more people who met God during their hour of need.

"Finding Comfort" is available at Bread from Heaven Community, National Book Store, Powerbooks Live! in Greenbelt 4 and Philippine Christian Book Store.

finding comfort

NCCA playwriting contest on corruption

THE NCCA is accepting entries to Timpalak Teatro Bulawan 2004, a one-act play writing contest with "Anti-corruption" as its theme. This project is part of the NCCA's continuing efforts to promote Philippine culture and arts, in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's policy of fostering culture and arts education in fighting poverty and corruption.

According to Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, NCCA executive director and presidential adviser on culture, entries should tackle the need for social and cultural reform to change deep-rooted attitudes and habits that breed corruption; the formation of a culture of honesty, truth, transparency, and accountability; the cultivation of values and virtues to counter corrupt lifestyles; and the need for outstanding examples of true public service.

Entries should be original compositions in Filipino, with a running time of around 30 to 45 minutes. Only one entry per contestant is allowed.

Contestants should submit four copies of their entry with a synopsis and cast of characters, typewritten or computerized, double-spaced on regular (8.5 x 11 inches) bond paper with 1-inch margins on all sides. If computerized, the entry should be in pt. 12 Arial or Times New Roman font. Each copy should only be marked with the author's pen name.

The contestant should include a sealed envelope with a paper containing his real name, address, telephone number, biodata, and the entry title. The outside of the envelope should be marked with the title and the contestant's pen name only.

Send to the NCCA Timpalak Teatro Bulawan, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, 633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila.

The top four scripts will each receive a cash prize of P25,000 less withholding tax. The deadline is Jan. 3, 2005.

Books to give . . .

From page E1

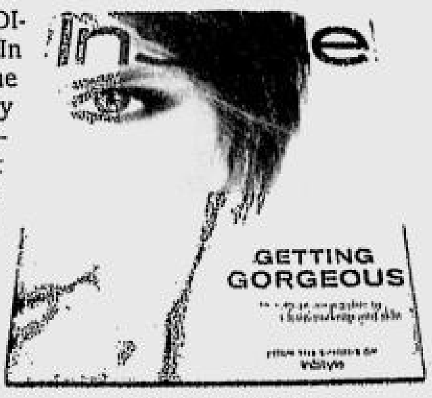
gies for Surviving and Thriving at the Office, by O magazine columnist Julie Morgenstern. Features competencies and easy-read tips needed in the world of work, from work-life balance to developing an entrepreneurial mindset, from mastering the art of delegation to leveraging your value.

The South Beach Diet Cookbook, by Arthur Agatson, MD. A companion book to the bestselling South Beach Diet, this book serves up to more than 200 recipes for great food that's good for you. Flavorful but healthy dishes include Oatmeal pancakes, Buttermilk Salmon chowder, Thai vegetable stir fry, chocolate pie with crispy peanut butter crust.

The 8th Habit: From Effectiveness to Greatness, by Stephen R. Covey, author of the No. 1 bestselling The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. It takes you to the next level where you can "inspire others." Comes with a CD of 16 inspirational companion films.

All available at National Book Stores.

New In Style book



FROM THE EDITORS of In Style magazine comes a handy beauty companion that shows every gal how to look her best.

"Getting Gorgeous: Step-by-step Guide to Your Best Hair, Makeup and Skin" will guide readers to the best looks and products for women's skin, eye, lips, hair and more. From basic information to in-depth Q & A's, this book offers answers to all fundamental beauty questions. It also demystifies the secrets of professionals and shows that every girl is qualified to be gorgeous.

"Getting Gorgeous" shows that fashion makeovers and product testing shouldn't be tacky or disastrous at all.

This book helps both Plain Janes and glam girls discover their most flattering looks with advice and tried-and-tested methods from the beauty experts that helped Hollywood stars achieve greatness.

"Getting Gorgeous" is also filled with famous faces, illustrated charts and step-by-step makeup application techniques for every face shape and type.

The book also features In Style's choice of both the new and the classic beauty products in the magazine's annual "Best Beauty Buys" survey.

"Getting Gorgeous" is available at National Book Store.

Book on RP's corals

"Combing The Coral Carpet, Volume I (Sailing Tales and the Cruising Guide to the Philippine Islands)" is a definitive guide to water travel in the Philippines by British author-sailor Bruce Curran.

It's a comprehensive 360-page, three-part coffee-table book on the country's majestic "coral carpets," which are believed to be among the richest in the world with their awesome reef formations.

The first part covers maritime history and general information on cruising through the islands, from weather and ports of entry to dealing with boat pests.

The main section, Part Two, focuses on three of the most commonly sailed routes, while the last part is a collection of quirky seafaring tales from various sources.

The book also captures the archipelago's rich and diverse culture and geography from Batanes to Tawi-Tawi and the small outlying islands through the colorful images from award-winning travel photographer Kevin Hamdorf.

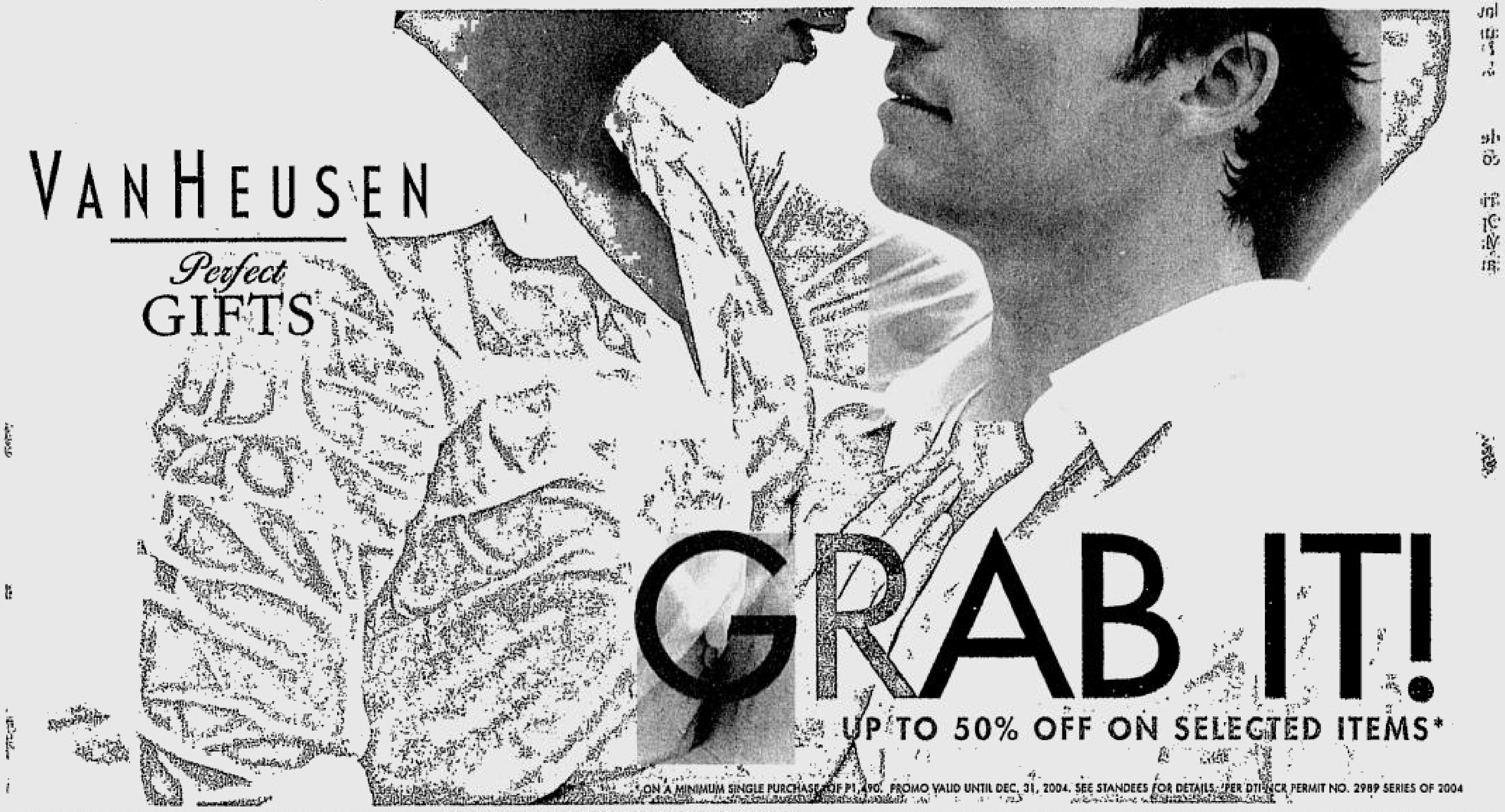
The Scottish-born author is a motorist, sailor, traveler and beekeeper who has traveled 44 countries by boat, bus, lorry, motorcycle and on foot to discover the beautiful sites in the world.

Based in the Philippines for the past seven years, he organizes the "Banca Safari" series which takes 10 people on week-long adventure tours through the country's magical islands on board a 50-foot outrigger boat.

Published by Waterline Leisure Publication, the book is available at leading bookstores, specialty gift shops, and yacht clubs nationwide.

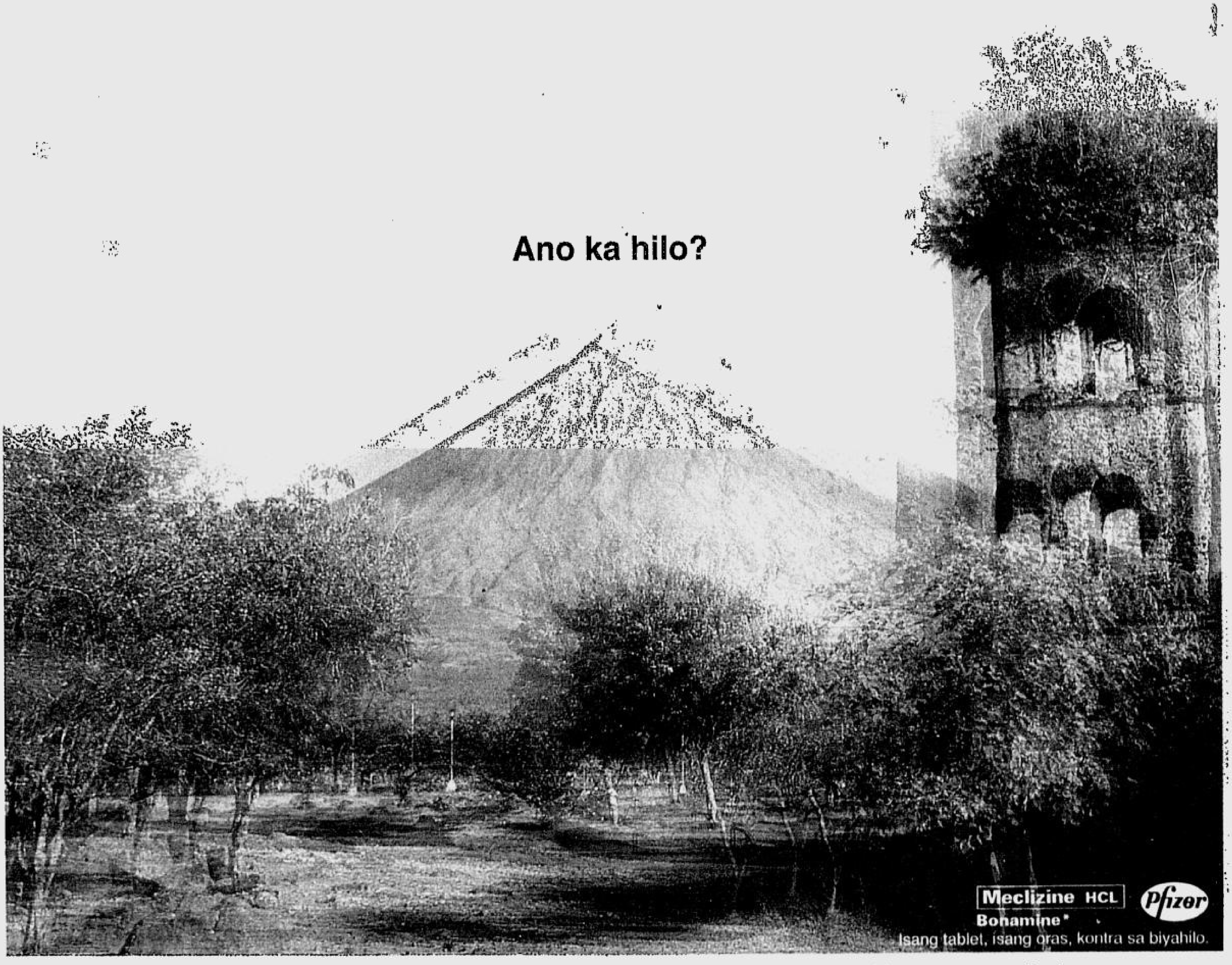
Call 7510963, e-mail brucemcurran@hotmail.com or visit www.combingthecoralcarpet.com.

Combing the Coral Carpet



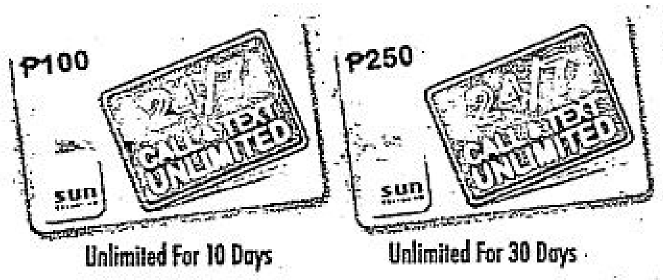
*ON A MINIMUM SINGLE PURCHASE OF P1,490. PROMO VALID UNTIL DEC. 31, 2004. SEE STANDEES FOR DETAILS. PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 2989 SERIES OF 2004
BOUTIQUES: FESTIVAL SUPERMALL • GATEWAY MALL • THE SHOPS, GREENHILLS • MEN'S WORLD, GLORIETTA 3 • ROBINSONS GALLERIA, EAST WING • ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA • ROBINSONS STARMILLS • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL • SM CITY BAGUIO • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO • SM CITY MANILA • SM MEGAMALL • SM CITY PAMPANGA • SM SOUTHMALL • SM CITY STA. MESA
DEPARTMENT STORES: RUSTAN'S (ALABANG TOWN CENTER, CUBAO, HARRISON PLAZA, MAKATI, SHANGRI-LA) • ROBINSONS (FESTIVAL SUPERMALL, METRO BACOLOD, ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA, PIONEER) • SM (CAGAYAN DE ORO, CEBU, DAVAO, ILOILO, MAKATI) • THE LANDMARK • METRO GAISANO, MARKET MARKET • CINDERELLA, MEGAMALL

Ano ka hilo?



Mag Bonamine Chewables ka! 'Yan ang dapat i-baon lalo na pag-uuwi ka sa probinsya ngayong Pasko.
Sa isang tablet, tanggal ang biyahilo..Ang gandang pamasko 'di ba? Kaya biyahe na!

24/7 Fun? Switch to Sun!
24/7
CALL & TEXT
UNLIMITED


₱100
24/7
CALL & TEXT
UNLIMITED
sun
Unlimited For 10 Days
₱250
24/7
CALL & TEXT
UNLIMITED
sun
Unlimited For 30 Days

If you wanna start callin' and textin' your pals and family 24/7, make that change now!

24/7 Call & Text Unlimited is available via call cards, e-pins or text.
Call cards and e-pins can be purchased and loaded up just like a regular Sun Cellular Prepaid call card.

For
Jay R logos,
wallpapers and
ring tones, text
JAYR to 2300
now! *

*Regular download rates apply.

sun
CELLULAR
PREPAID

ENTERTAINMENT Metro

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Hilary Swank's comeback worthy of Muhammad Ali

'Million Dollar Baby' should be a strong best-picture contender

LOS ANGELES—Hilary Swank showed signs of becoming one of those actresses who wins an Academy Award then fades into a succession of forgettable roles. But with Clint Eastwood's splendid "Million Dollar Baby," she makes a comeback worthy of Muhammad Ali, playing a woman hoping to rise above her hard-knock life by training as a boxer.

Barely a year after the release of "Mystic River," Eastwood delivers a second consecutive drama that fearlessly probes the shadows of human morality without falling back on easy answers.

Along with Swank, who won a best-actress Oscar for "Boys Don't Cry," Eastwood is receiving serious awards consideration as both lead actor and director. The film itself should follow "Mystic River" as a best-picture contender, and co-star Morgan Freeman belongs among the front-runners for supporting actor.

Crackling dialogue

Adapted from short stories by former boxing "cut man" F.X. Toole, the screenplay by Paul Haggis crackles with tough-guy dialogue and insightful street wisdom.

Eastwood plays lovably irascible gym owner and boxing trainer Frankie Dunn, a guilt-ridden man with an estranged daughter and a host of personal sins for which he cannot find atonement, despite attending Mass each morning.

Frankie's gym attracts hard-luck cases, including ex-fighter Eddie "Scrap-Iron" Dupris (Freeman)—Scrap for short—who makes an ascetic home in the gym back room and fills a variety of roles from cleaning toilets to mentoring up-and-coming athletes.

After a fighter Frankie has groomed for a title shot jumps ship to another manager, a new contender enters his life, Maggie Fitzgerald (Swank). A waitress with a harsh upbringing behind her and nothing but a lifetime of bad tips ahead, Maggie turns to boxing, the only thing she ever felt good doing.

Frankie initially scorns her desire to fight, saying the 30-something Maggie is too old to train and that competitive boxing among women is a fad, the "latest freak show out there."

Exuberant half

Scrap takes pity on Maggie and tosses her some nuggets of advice. And gradually, Frankie is sucked in, too, first by exacerbation over Maggie's coarse boxing form, later by her indomitable high spirits and tenacity, which come packaged with a natural ability to punch opponents' lights out.

Maggie's transition from clumsy combatant to potential champion is abrupt but easy enough to accept given the exuberance of the film's second act, when she and Frankie fall into a delightful surrogate father-daughter relationship and she becomes the darling of fight crowds.

Just when it seems the film will wrap up as a satisfying "Rocky"-like chick flick, "Million Dollar Baby" turns deep and dark, presenting a harsh ethical dilemma that coaxes potently raw performances from Eastwood and Swank.

Eastwood and Freeman fall back into the same easy camaraderie they demonstrated in the director's dark Western, "Unforgiven." Freeman's voice-overs, delivered with austere detachment, serve as an emotional anchor and nicely complement the action.

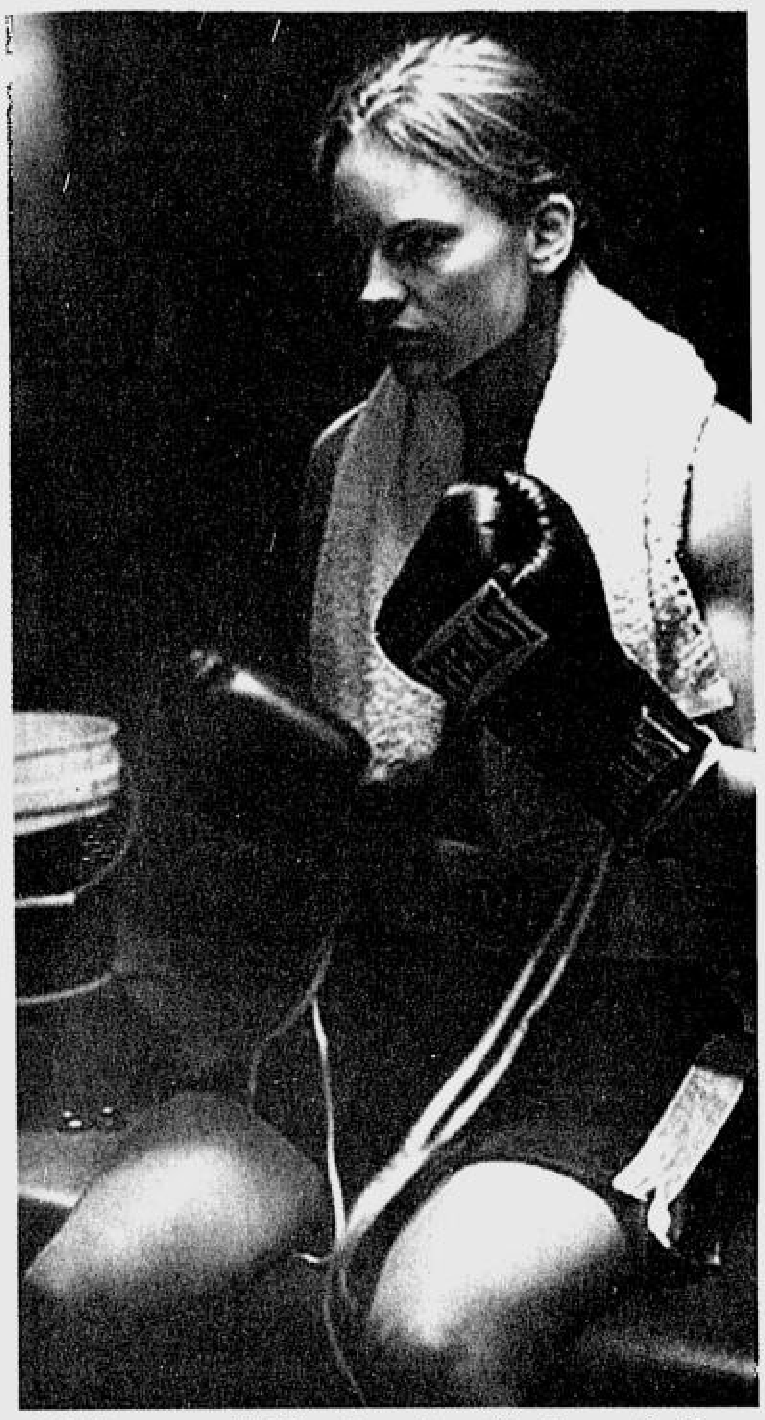
Forlorn score

The score by Eastwood, with orchestration by his longtime collaborator Lennie Niehaus, provides a suitably forlorn musical backdrop reminiscent of the sparse tones of "Unforgiven."

The closing image—in its equivocal tone, at least—also harks back to the uncertain ending of that great Western.

For the decade or so between "Unforgiven" and "Mystic River," Eastwood mostly made commonplace movies. At 74, Eastwood has hit a late-career stride. With nothing to prove to anyone, he's willing to tackle ambivalent characters and bleak moral questions rarely seen in Hollywood films.

"Million Dollar Baby," a Warner Bros. release, runs 132 minutes. *AP*



SWANK teams up with fellow Oscar winner Clint Eastwood in this serious movie.

For Bobby Darin devotees only

NEW YORK—Quick show of hands: Who wants to see Kevin Spacey singing and dancing for two hours as Bobby Darin?

Come on, people, he looks and sounds just like him!

Well, Kevin Spacey wanted to see Kevin Spacey as Bobby Darin. That seems to be the entire point of "Beyond the Sea," in which he plays the crooner from his rise to music and movie popularity in the '60s, through his turn as a folk singer during the Vietnam War, and up to his death following open-heart surgery in 1973.

Spacey told The Associated Press earlier this year: "This wasn't about an actor's ego, wanting to get my rocks off by singing in a movie." But by functioning as director, co-writer and star, he's created a film that feels unshakably like a vanity project.

You have to admire Spacey for his enthusiasm, though, and for sharing the same unflappable sense of determination to get the film made as the character he's playing in the film itself.

Sounds like . . .

And he's at least trying to do something different with the biopic structure—though it's strangely similar to the similarly painful Cole Porter movie, "De-Lovely," which must have been a coincidence because they came out during the same year.

As in that earlier film, in which a dying Porter sits in a theater and watches his story unfurl onstage with an Archangel Gabriel figure next to him, "Beyond the Sea" begins with Darin making a fictional movie about his life, with a child version of himself (William Ullrich) guiding him through the highlights.

The structure is incredibly clunky, repeatedly drawing attention to itself and away from the key events in Darin's life we're supposed to care about. And Young Bobby shows up at really obvious emotional times (when Darin's mother dies, for example) as if we couldn't figure out for ourselves that these are the moments in which an adult feels like a scared, confused child.

Bobby's mother (Brenda Blethyn, doing a heavy Noo Yawk accent) was the one who pushed him into show business in the first place. Stricken with rheumatic fever as a child, he wasn't expected to live past 15, but his love of performing songs like "Mack the Knife" and the film's title tune somehow kept him alive until 37.

HE'S A little too old for the role, but Kevin Spacey doesn't care.

A little creepy

But Spacey, the "American Beauty" star, is 45 and looks it—a fact he acknowledges in the film early on by having Darin's brother-in-law (Bob Hoskins, wasted in a supporting role) bark, "It's a self-portrait on film! He was born to play the part and you damn well know it!"

His age becomes insurmountable, though, when Darin starts wooing 16-year-old Sandra Dee (the sunny Kate Bosworth) on the set of a movie they made together. In real life, Darin was eight years older than Dee. Also in real life, Spacey is 24 years older than Bosworth, which is more than a little creepy and makes their romantic scenes together nearly unbearable to watch, except for the train-wreck factor.

Clearly "Beyond the Sea" is for Darin devotees only, who will not only ignore this and other eviscerating reviews, but they'll probably already have seen Spacey on tour with a 19-piece big band, singing Darin's songs live. *AP*

Celebrity Christmas cards for Pinoys away from home

CELEBRITIES took time out to add to the Christmas cheer even as they revealed their artistic side. They created Christmas cards, which will be given to Filipino workers on board the Star Cruise ships who will be away from home on Christmas.

The cards and their designs were just as colorful and as varied as the people who made them.

Award-winning actor Christopher de Leon drew a beautiful pencil sketch of local *banga* or clay jars.

Fashion design genius Rajo Laurel showed that fashion is indeed his forte. His card has a girl in a glamorous gown holding out a gift.

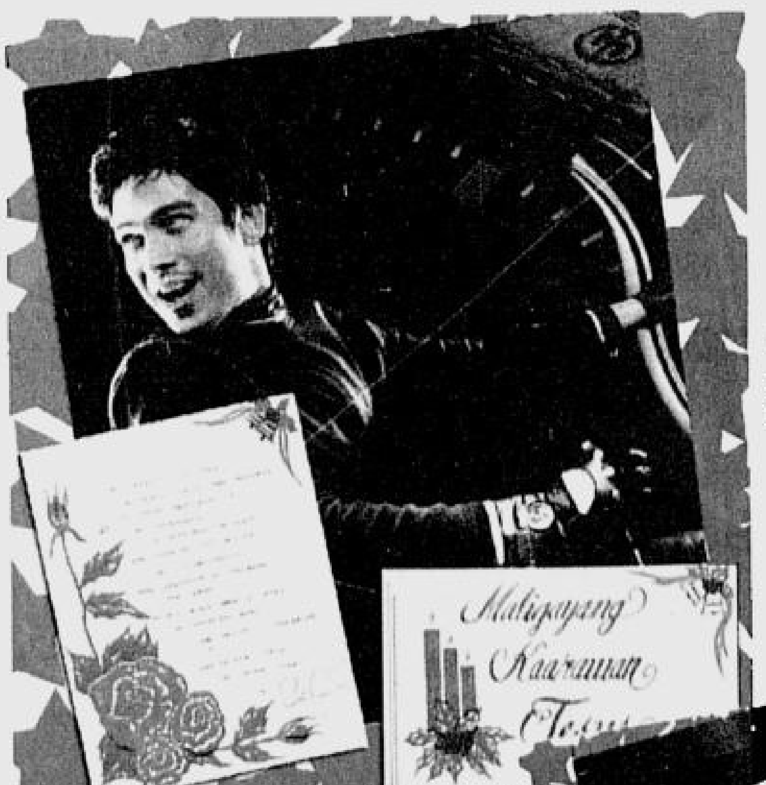
The card by Raphael Fernandez has the line "Home is Just Over the Horizon" written under a marking pen sketch of a sunset on the horizon.

Actor and model Luke Jickain has a cure for homesickness—a scene from Edsa/Kamuning on the cover of his card.

Christmas trees are popular with drop-dead gorgeous model Francis Ricafort, brothers (and sons of photographer Patrick Uy) Timothy and Christopher Uy, StarStruck winner Yasmien Kurdi, and Gabriel de Leon.

Other symbols of Christmas are TV host Phoemela Barranda's wreath; Sandy Andolong's *parol* hanging in a nipa hut; model Bubbles Paraiso's snowman; Renz Fernandez's Santa, and Christmas ribbons by Evelyn Uy and Essenses' Toni Abad.

Unusual are actor Ton-Ton Gutierrez's ship (inspired by Star Cruises), his actress wife Glydel Mercado's living-room scene, and talent manager Lolit Solis' flower.



Slogans are also popular. From the badminton trio: Luz Siguion-Reyna asks, "Have you been naughty or nice?" on her card; Rina Aguilar says, "Give love on Xmas Day!," and Carol Francisco wishes everyone "Peace, Love, Joy."

Celebrity husband-and-wife Rudy Fernandez and Lorna Tolentino have cards with the same message: "May Christmas bring you warmth and cheer, and leave its brightness all next year."

Color also rules. Model couple Raya Manaquil and Corey Wills both have colorful cards, his featuring a funny beach scene, and hers a happy dog in a Santa hat.

Former beauty queen Gem Padilla has pastel renditions of starry Christmas nights. Tall, dark and handsome model Zanjoe Marrudo has multicolored patterns on his.

Endorsers of leading American watch brand Timex—actress Claudine Baretto, actor/singer Paolo Pascual and hunky Australian TV host Marc Nelson—also made cards of their own. These, too, will be sent to the Filipino crew on board Star Cruises ships.

Timex will help send and distribute the cards. Timex also celebrates its 150th year of precision watchmaking this year, and this is its way of reaching out during the holidays.

SM CINEMA moviedetime

It's time to watch the year's most excellent films!

Catch the most awaited annual event in local film industry!

The 30th Metro Manila Film Festival 2004

Opens Dec. 25 at all SM Cinema

OPENS THIS WEEK

BAD SANTA
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

This is the story of two criminals who disguise themselves as Santa Claus (Thornton) and his elf, traveling across the country to major malls, using the good will people have towards Santa to rob the stores blind. The plan is going great until the two baddies meet an introverted 8-year-old boy who reminds them of the true meaning of Christmas.

Now Showing at:
SM Manila • North Edsa • Megamall • Sta. Mesa • Southmall • Bicutan • Sucat

HAROLD AND KUMAR
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

Two likeable underdogs (John Cho & Kal Penn) for whom things never seem to go right, set out on a Friday night quest to satisfy their craving for White Castle hamburgers and end up on an epic journey of deep thoughts and deeper inhaling.

Now Showing at:
SM Manila • North Edsa • Megamall • Sta. Mesa • Southmall • Tutuban

HONEY
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

This is the story of Honey (Alba), a tough sexy dancer from the inner city, who becomes a successful music video choreographer, a career which is threatened when her mentor makes her either sleep with him... or get blacklisted within the industry. She ultimately decides to pursue her lifelong dream of opening her own dance studio for inner-city youths.

Now Showing at:
SM Manila • North Edsa • Megamall • Sta. Mesa • Southmall • Tutuban

NOW SHOWING

—THE—
PODIUM
CINEMA
For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 BRIDGET JONES 2
2 THE INCREDIBLES

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 POLAR EXPRESS
2 ALEXANDER
3 NATIONAL TREASURE
4 HAROLD AND KUMAR
5 BAD SANTA
6 BUNNYGUARDS
7 HELLWOLF
8 PASIYAM
9 HONEY
10 2046
11 BRIDGET JONES 2
12 BIRTH

sm city fairview
1 ONE MISSED CALL
2 BIRTH
3 ALEXANDER
4 NATIONAL TREASURE
5 HAROLD AND KUMAR
6 HELLWOLF
7 BAD SANTA
8 BCUZ OF U
9 PASIYAM
10 NED KELLY
11 AFTER THE SUNSET
12 POLAR EXPRESS

sm city manila
1 HONEY
2 HAROLD AND KUMAR
3 POLAR EXPRESS
4 ALEXANDER
5 BAD SANTA
6 NATIONAL TREASURE
7 BUNNYGUARDS
8 ONE MISSED CALL
9 PASIYAM
10 BCUZ OF U
11 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
12 BRIDGET JONES 2

sm city sta. mesa
1 PASIYAM
2 BIRTH
3 ALEXANDER
4 HAROLD AND KUMAR
5 NATIONAL TREASURE
6 ONE MISSED CALL
7 BAD SANTA
8 NED KELLY
9 HONEY
10 BCUZ OF U

sm city southmall
1 BAD SANTA
2 HONEY
3 NATIONAL TREASURE
4 HAROLD AND KUMAR
5 BIRTH
6 NED KELLY
7 PASIYAM
8 ALEXANDER
9 BCUZ OF U
10 ONE MISSED CALL

sm city north edsa
1 ALEXANDER
2 BAD SANTA
3 PASIYAM
4 BIRTH
5 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
6 HAROLD AND KUMAR
7 NATIONAL TREASURE
8 HONEY

sm cinema tutuban
1 HONEY
2 HAROLD AND KUMAR
3 PASIYAM
4 ONE MISSED CALL

sm supercenter sucat
1 BAD SANTA
2 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
3 NATIONAL TREASURE
4 BRIDGET JONES 2

sm city bicutan
1 GEORGE AND THE
2 DRAGON
3 BRIDGET JONES 2
4 BAD SANTA
NATIONAL TREASURE

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit *www.smcinema.com*

CALL!
DIAL 833-9999 FOR INFORMATION AND MOVIE LISTINGS, MTRCB RATINGS AND SCREENING SCHEDULES.

SURF!
VISIT US AT www.smcinema.com FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA.

AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE

heroes for a day...
THE BUNNYGUARDS

THE BUNNYGUARDS

NOW SHOWING
SM CITY MANILA
SM MEGAMALL

MTRCB Rating: G

SM Cinema unleashes Washington's scandal of the century. Through his connections to the underworld and for a huge amount of money, a Hamburg publisher succeeds in getting his hands on a tape with a recording of a secret and intimate conversation between the President and his intern. However, just prior to the big press conference, the revealing tape of accidentally exchanged with his daughter Nina's Japanese lessons tape who, unknowingly, flies with the evidence in her handbag to Munich. As soon as her father realizes what has happened, he tries to get the best bodyguards money can buy to protect her. However, thanks to the efforts of the German Secret Service and the CIA, both of which are eager to get their hands on the tape, Nina ends up with the two biggest goofs in town: Erkan and Stefan.

Catch The Bunnyguards only here at SM Cinemas! Watch how Erkan and Stefan get to be heroes for a day! See fantastic, unforgettable movies, critics are raving about only here at SM Cinemas!

U2 in Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

THE FAMOUS Irish band

LOS ANGELES—They may already be the world's biggest band, and Irish rockers U2 will add another accolade to their sheaf of honors by joining the legends in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame next year, organizers have announced.

The Pretenders, soul veterans Percy Sledge and the O'Jay, and blues guitarist Buddy Guy will also be inducted at the 20th annual ceremony, culminating with an all-star jam, in New York on March 14, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation said.

Nominees, who must have a 25-year recording history, are chosen by a group of music industry insiders. Most worthy acts have already been inducted, although some observers have criticized the absence of such influential groups as the Sex Pistols, Black Sabbath and Lynyrd Skynyrd.

U2 and the Pretenders both formed in the aftermath of the punk rock explosion of the late 1970s, while the O'Jays started out in 1958 and dominated the 1970s soul scene with such hits as "Love Train" and "I Love Music (Part 1)." Sledge scored his biggest hit, "When a Man Loves A Woman" in 1966, while Guy has kept the Chicago blues sound alive since the late 1960s.

The honor for U2 will come shortly after it begins a world tour in Florida on March 1, 2005. The band recently released its heavily promoted album, "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb," which topped the charts around the world and garnered three Grammy nominations last week.

U2, founded in 1978 in Dublin, quickly made a name for itself with strident, politically nuanced songs such as "Sunday Bloody Sunday." The band hit its stride with its 1987 album, "The Joshua Tree," which won the Grammy for album of the year. Subsequent tours and albums have become big events, although lead singer Bono has still found time to lobby on behalf of various causes, including reducing third world debt.

U2's lineup, unchanged through the years, is rounded out by guitarist The Edge (born Dave Evans), drummer Larry Mullen Jr. and bass player Adam Clayton, all of whom continue to reside in Ireland. *Reuters*

DAILY TV
The Philippine Daily Inquirer and ClicktheCity.com provide readers with daily schedules of their favorite television shows. Shown during the contract signing for INQUIRER TV Guide, published in the Entertainment/Sports Section are (from left): PDI's Gary Libby and Imee Alcantara, ClicktheCity GM Raul Calalang Jr., INQUIRER SVP David O. Valdes, Dara David and Ged S. Ventura.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.7851 loc. 171

PREMIERE THEATRE
(DOLBY) THE INCREDIBLES GP

1 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE GP
2 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES PG13
3 (DOLBY) POLAR EXPRESS GP
SHREK 2 GP
4 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER R13

SUPER CINERAMA
isetann
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO
tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) BAD SANTA
2. HONEY
3. RESERVED
4. GEORGE & THE DRAGON
5. SALAT

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 KALABIT
2 THE GRUDGE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) U-BELT
2 KALABIT
3 BABY GENIUSES
4 (DTS) ALEXANDER

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) ONE MISSED CALL
2 (SDDS) CHRISTMAS WITH A KRANKS
3 (DTS) HONEY
4 GOLD (DTS) BAD SANTA
5 GOLD (DOLBY) HAROLD & KUMAR
6 GOLD (SDDS) NATIONAL TREASURE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
8 (RMSL) BCUZ OF U
9 (RMSL) SEED OF CHUCKY
10 (RMSL) THE INCREDIBLE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 HONEY
2 NED KELLY
3 KALABIT

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ALEXANDER
2 BABY GENIUSES
3 KALABIT
4 RESERVED

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) POLAR EXPRESS
2 SANTA SANTITA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE POLAR EXPRESS
2 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
3 (DOLBY) THE INCREDIBLES
4 (DOLBY) SHREK 2

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALIMALL CINEPLEX
Tel 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) ALEXANDER
4 (SDDS) HAROLD & KUMAR
5 (DTS) BAD SANTA
6 (Dolby) HONEY
7 (Dolby) BCUZ OF U

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SANTA SANTITA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) NED KELLY
5 SALAT SA LIGAYA

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 OUT OF REACH
2 SALAT SA LIGAYA
3 HONEY
4 SANTA SANTITA
5 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
6 NATIONAL TREASURE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHOW TIME

Bodega City marks 25th year

"CHRISTMAS Love," a concert featuring singer, actress and broadcaster Juvy de Guzman, ushered in a week of holiday parties and shows to celebrate Bodega City's 25th anniversary.

Juvy de Guzman is the host of "Let's Talk on the Air," on dzXQ. Her guests last night were Paul Toledo, Bert Dominic, Fiona Samadan, Honey Blanca, The Psychopatics, Dyndel Caranto, and the Point Guys.

Tonight, loyal Bodega patrons will be treated to a restaging of "Here Come the Three Reindeers," featuring Bobby, Joey, and Wally, former singer-mainstays of the club, which used to be known as Bodega Folkhouse.

Ballroom dance enthusiasts will have the place for a playroom tomorrow night, with "The Ding Malazo Band Merry Go-Round," a musical special.

On Thursday, the crowd goes native with "Pasko na po, Ninang, Pasko na po, Ninong." This is a Christmas carol show with big raffle prizes. At stake is a free weekend for two at the Hundred Islands Resort Hotel in Alaminos, Pangasinan.

Slow day for celeb guitar auction

NEW YORK—A guitar owned and played by the late Beatle George Harrison sold for $567,500 Friday at an auction of entertainment memorabilia which saw some other prize lots fail to make their reserve price.

Harrison's rare Gibson SG guitar appeared in two Beatles movies, was used by Harrison on the "Revolver" album, and played by John Lennon during the "White Album" recording sessions in 1969.

The price exceeded the high estimate of $500,000 set by Cristie's auction house in New York, but was still far short of the guitar record set in June, when Eric Clapton's prized Stratocaster "Blackie" sold for $959,500.

Another highlight of the Christie's sale, a 1959 Gibson guitar used by Rolling Stone Keith Richards in the mid 1960s, was estimated to fetch $400,000 but failed to sell.

Another lot that did not manage to make its reserve price was Elvis Presley's US Army trenchcoat, valued at $15,000.

The auction comprised a total of 400 lots, including more than 70 items of Beatles memorabilia.

Childhood paraphernalia included a Britney Spears' book report from the 1980s which sold for $1,912, almost double its pre-sale estimate, and a Jimi Hendrix Junior High School Yearbook from 1961 that went for $597.

Away from the music world, $95,600 was the winning bid for the Best Picture Oscar awarded to the movie "How Green Was My Valley," which famously beat out "Citizen Kane" in 1941.

AFP

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

POLAR EXPRESS GP 1:30.3:30 5:30 ALEXANDER R13 7:15.10:10	NATIONAL TREASURE GP 12:10,2:40,5.10,7:40,10:10	BRIDGET JONES PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00
HAROLD AND KUMAR R13 1:20,3:30,5:40,7:50,10:00	SHARK TALE GP 12:30.5:00,9:30 INCREDIBLES GP 2:30 7:00	BAD SANTA R13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 P.M. - P80.00 - MON.- FRI.

star group of cinemas movie guide

IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW	METROPOLIS ALABANG star	starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 726.61.50	Tel. No. 850.42.85	Tel. No. 873.50.04
3 Santa Santita	1 Out of Reach	1 Polar Express
4 Ned Kelly	2 Salat sa Ligaya	2 Santa Santita
5 Salat sa Ligaya	3 Honey	
	4 Santa Santita	
	5 Alexander	
	6 National Treasure	

Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	THE POLAR EXPRESS 12:35, 3:05, 5:35 8:05, 10:35 GP
2	BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2 10:30, 12:50, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50 PG-13
3	THE INCREDIBLES 11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:30 GP
4	HAROLD & KUMAR 11:50, 2:30, 5:10 7:50, 10;30 R-13

THEATRE MALL

GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	BAD SANTA 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:10 P13
CINEMA 2	HAROLD & KUMAR 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 8:55 R13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM M
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

① NATIONAL TREASURE FS 11 20AM, 2 00PM, 4 40PM, 7 20PM, LMF 10 00PM (GP)	③ POLAR EXPRESS FS 11 30AM, 4 30PM, LMF 9 30PM (GP) SHREK 2 FS 2 00PM, LMF 7 00PM (GP)
② BRIDGET JONES (EDGE OF REASON) FS 11 45AM, 2 15PM, 4 45PM, 7 15PM, LMF 9 45PM (PG-13)	④ ALEXANDER FS 12 15PM, 3 30PM, 6 45PM LMF 10 00PM (R-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE — THE INCREDIBLES (GP)
FS 11:30AM,2:00PM,4.30PM,7.00PM,LMF 9:30PM

Regular Ticket Prices
Cinema 1 to 4 - P150
Premiere Theatre - P295
(includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)

Shangri-La Plaza

Enjoy our Screen Specials

Pay 20% less on Matinee Shows except on selected blockbuster movies
From Monday to Friday : Matinee Shows before 4 p.m.
For more details, please see film listing at the Shang Cineplex ticket booths or call 633-2227 or 633-7851 local 171.
Promo Period December 1-24, 2004 — Per DTI-NCR Permit No A3-841, Series of 2004

Araneta Center LEISURE GUIDE

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10

MOVIE-GOING LIKE NO OTHER
Gateway Cineplex*10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
NOW OPEN!

1	HAROLD AND KUMAR 1:40 4:20 7:00 9:40
2	NATIONAL TREASURE 12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40
3	ALEXANDER 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
4	BRIDGET JONES 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

Opens Soon! CINEMAS 5,6,7,8,9 & 10
ALL THEATERS EQUIPPED WITH DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ALI MALL CINEMAS

3	Dolby	ALEXANDER 12:00 2:50 5:40 8:30
4	SDDS	HAROLD & KUMAR 1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
5	dts	BAD SANTA 12:15 2:25 4:35 6:45 8:55
6	Dolby	HONEY 12:15 2:25 4:35 6:45 8:55
7	Dolby	BCUZ OF U 12 00 2:10 4 20 6 30 8 40

ARANETA COLISEUM

Disney On Ice
Princess Classics
SHOWTIME

Dec. 25	Sat	1pm 4:30pm 8pm
Dec. 26	Sun	2pm 6pm
Dec. 27	Mon	2pm 6pm
Dec. 28	Tue	6pm
Dec. 29	Wed	2pm 6pm
Dec. 30	Thu	2pm 6pm
Jan. 1	Sat	1pm 4:30pm 8pm
Jan. 2	Sun	2pm 6pm
Jan. 3	Mon	6pm

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SALAT SA LIGAYA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SALAT SA LIGAYA
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3 & 4	NATIONAL TREASURE / BRIDGET JONES / SPIDERMAN 2 / SHREK 2
PREMIERE THEATRE	THE INCREDIBLES
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KALABIT
CINEMA-2	SALAT
CINEMA-3	ONE MISSED CALL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	POLAR EXPRESS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-6	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-7	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-8	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HAROLD & KUMAR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALEXANDER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BAD SANTA
CINEMA-12	NATIONAL TREASURE
CINEMA-14	HONEY
CINEMA-15	BCUZ OF U
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	NATIONAL TREASURE
CINEMA-1	PASIYAM
CINEMA-2	BRIDGET JONES
CINEMA-4	POLAR EXPRESS
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

GALLERIA	632-9115/16
1 ALEXANDER • THX 11:30 3:00 6:30 10:00	6 NATIONAL TREASURE 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
2 HAROLD AND KUMAR 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00	7 SHREK 2 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
3 NED KELLY 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	8 HONEY 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
4 BRIDGET JONES 2 12:10 2:40 5:10 7:40 10:00	9 BAD SANTA 11:35 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
5 BIRTH 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	10 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
ERMITA	**536-7809 to 12**
1 NATIONAL TREASURE	10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 BAD SANTA 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 6:30 10:00	5 RESERVE
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:30 10:00	6 HONEY 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
4 PA-SIYAM 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50	7 HAROLD AND KUMAR 10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 9:50
METRO EAST	**682-8193/99 • 682-8280**
1 SEED OF CHUCKY 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	5 HONEY 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
2 ALEXANDER 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30	6 NATIONAL TREASURE 12:20 3:15 6:10 9:05
3 SHREK 2 11:50 1:45 BRIDGET JONES 2 3:55 6:25 9:00	7 HAROLD AND KUMAR 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:50 12:50 2:50 2046 4:50 7:05 9:20	8 BAD SANTA 11.10 1.40 4.10 6:40 9:10
NOVALICHES	**935-3229/31**
1 ALEXANDER 10:40 1:50 5:00 8:15	5 THE INCREDIBLES 11:00 1:10 ONE MISSED CALL 3:30 5:50 8:30
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:30 1:00 3:30 6.00 8:30	6 SHREK 2 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 6:50 8:30
3 BIRTH 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55	7 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:00 1.00 3.00 5.00 7:00 8:55
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:30 12:30 2:30 2046 4.35 6:50 9.00	8 NANG NAK 11:00 1:00 3,00 5:00 7:00 8:55

rewind

SHREK is BACK!!!

*Join Shrek, Princess Fiona and their friends on their magical journey to Far Far Away...**again!***

at
Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas
galleria•metro east•novaliches•cainta•imus

PIONEER	687-5378
1 ALEXANDER 11:00 2:20 5:40 9:00	3 NATIONAL TREASURE 12:40 3:20 6:00 8:40
2 SHREK 2 11:10 1:05 3:00 4:55 6:50 8:45	4 BAD SANTA 10.35 12.40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00
Citisquare MALABON	**288-0985 / 2575**
1 BCUZ OF U 11.10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	3 ALEXANDER 11:00 2:10 5:20 8:30
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10.30 1:15 3:40 6:05 8:30	4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 11:45 1:55 4:05 6:15 8:30
CAINTA	**240-4661**
1 ALEXANDER 10:05 1:15 4:30 8:00	3 HONEY 11.00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20
2 HAROLD AND KUMAR 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20	4 NATIONAL TREASURE 11:15 2:10 5:05 8:00

BRIDGET JONES

NOW ON ITS 3RD WEEK!
in
Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas
galleria • metro east • lipa and bacolod

Reason to smile

By Armin Adina

> Miss RP World Maria Karla Bautista is determined to be the ultimate example of "beauty with a purpose"

WHILE the country was battling waves of tragedy from four successive typhoons, a Filipina was making waves in Sanya, China, in the world of beauty pageants.

Binibining Pilipinas-World Maria Karla Bautista capped her year of victory on Dec. 4 with a Top 5 finish in Miss World 2004. Being the highest ranked Asian in the pageant, she was also proclaimed Asia and Oceania's Queen of Beauty, the same award Ruffa Gutierrez received when the actress finished third in the same pageant in 1993.

Karla has given the country a three-year finalist placement in the widest and oldest international pageant in the world. Katherine Manalo was in the final 10 in 2002, while Mafae Yunon was in the Top 5 last year.

"I hope that amidst all the calamity, I have given Filipinos a reason to smile," Karla told the media upon her arrival last Monday.

Karla went to China last month, fully aware of the hard work ahead. But she also knew that her countrymen would not let her down. "I wouldn't have made it this far without your help," she told her *kababayan*. "Receiving flowers, calls, and text messages ... made me feel happy."

The winners

For the first time in the pageant's 54-year history, this year's winner was selected by public voting. Telephone, SMS and online votes from over 100 countries were tabulated to determine the winner. Peru's Maria Julia Mantilla Garcia beat 106 other contestants for the title. She was also The Americas' Queen of Beauty.

Claudia Cruz of the Dominican Republic ranked second and was The Caribbean's Queen of Beauty. United States' Nancy Randall, winner of the "fast-track" Beach Beauty competition, placed third. Completing the Top 5 is Poland's Katrzyna Borowicz, Europe's Queen of Beauty.

For the voting, a point system was implemented by the pageant organizers. Instead of getting the total number votes for each delegate, points were allocated for each country's 10 highest vote-getters. The highest ranked delegate in a country received 10 points, while the second got 9 points, and so on.

The five delegates who won in the fast-track events received an additional 25 points and automatically landed in the Top 15. Aside from Nancy, the other fast-track winners were Wales' Amy Guy as Miss Sports and Fitness; Mexico's Yessica Ramirez, Top Fashion Model; Shermain Jeremy of Antigua, Miss Talent; and Australia's Sarah Davies, Contestants' Choice, voted by the delegates.

Completing the Top 15 were Jin Yang of the People's Republic of China, Jana Dolezevola of Czech Republic, Russia's Tatiana Sidorchuk, Trinidad and Tobago's Kenisha Thom, Nguyen Thi Huyen of Vietnam, and Nigeria's Anita Uwagbale, who was also proclaimed Africa's Queen of Beauty.

Eye on the crown

Asked who she thought would win, Karla replied: "I came to the contest with the hope that I would be the winner. I knew someone was going to win and I hoped it would be me." But she said she was happy with Peru's victory. "She's pretty and smart, she'd make a great Miss World."

When Karla placed fourth in the Beach Beauty competition, she felt that greater things were coming her way. This was the general feeling in her group, which included four more Asians. The delegates were divided in eight groups and Karla belonged to Group 3.

Karla confessed that the girls hoped she would represent the continent in the Top 15. And she also has kind words for her "neighbors." Thailand, her roommate, was "very nice." Korea was "cute and funny, like our youngest sister in the group." She grew fondest of the two girls, as well as Miss Hong Kong.

She was not able to interact much with the girls from other groups but she did not mind that, she said, because she "immensely" enjoyed the company of her own. Group 3 even held a pajama party after her outstanding placement in the Beach Beauty contest. And when Karla was called in the Top 5, her group frantically cheered backstage, prompting their chaperones to ask them to pipe down.

Todo-bulos
tulong mula
ibang bansa

"I HOPE to help abused women as a lawyer."

"My group was laid back, not competitive at all. We were just out to enjoy everything that happened," Karla said.

Talented, too

Karla also made an impression in the talent competition. Out of the more than 80 women who auditioned, she was among the 20 who were asked to perform during the talent ceremonies. Karla recited a poem that she had written herself.

International news caught pieces of Karla's mind in two press conferences. She was selected by pageant officials to speak in two engagements—the AIDS Day conference and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation. The latter turned out to be an occasion to defend the pageant when international reporters asked why she and the other girls participated in a contest where they were made "to display their bodies."

"I was told of the speaking engagements only five minutes prior," Karla recounted, laughing.

After the pageant, Karla hopes to use her victory to help typhoon victims. "Maybe I could invite people to donate money and goods. I will use my title to live out Miss World's principle, 'beauty with a purpose.'"

Looking at law

And when her reign ends in February next year, Karla will resume her studies at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. She was a sophomore Mass Communications coed in UP Cebu when she joined the local pageant last March. Then she hopes to pursue a career in broadcasting "so I can save up for a good law school."

"I hope to help abused women as a lawyer," she said. "It disheartens me that in this modern age, women are still being maltreated, and they still think they deserve it." She also wishes to defend poor people who are "deprived of justice just because they can't afford good lawyers."

For now, Karla is bent on living the last months of her reign as a true beauty queen, one who puts a smile on her countrymen's face, just by being around.

Will Pamela get Chinese nod?

BEIJING—A semi-naked Pamela Anderson will beckon from Chinese billboards in a new anti-fur campaign—if the former "Baywatch" star can get past the censors.

The posters, featuring the slogan "Give fur the cold shoulder" in English, show the Canadian-born actress topless with her back to the camera and an arm partly hiding her right breast.

An image of falling snow appears above Chinese characters reading "Cold shoulders are nothing compared to the cold they feel," and "Please don't wear fur."

China's straight-laced media regulators have yet to give the posters a green light, said Jason Baker, a Hong Kong-based spokesman for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA, which is promoting the anti-fur campaign.

"Depending on the censors, they may be concerned about it, but it's very tastefully done," Baker said.

"We may end up having to crop (the photo) a bit."

Too much sex

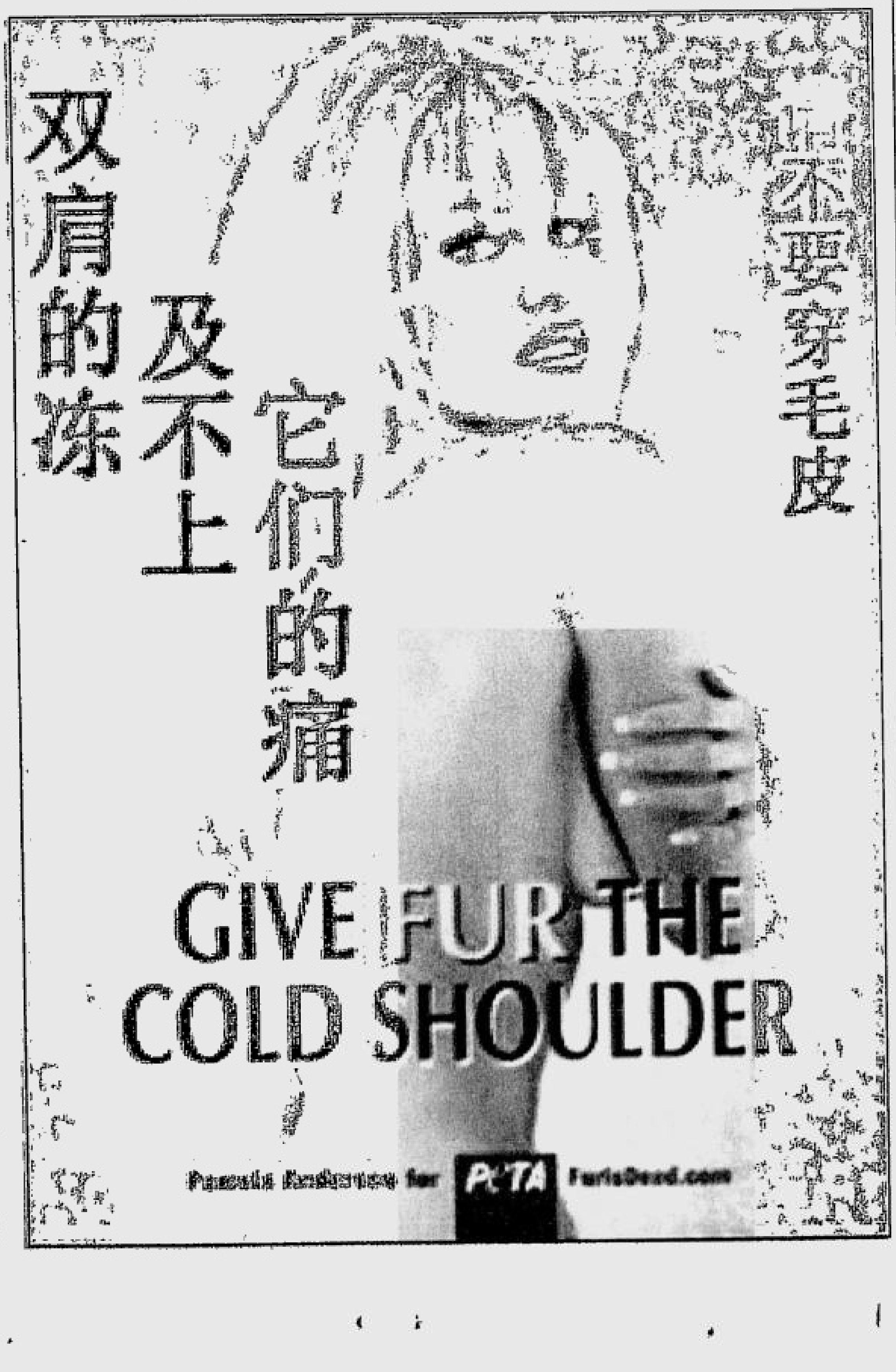
Chinese officials last week complained advertisers were using too much sexual innuendo and announced stricter screening rules for television ads.

According to PETA, China was the origin of 40 percent of all American fur imports in 2000.

"I'm perfectly happy to bare my skin if it will help save animals' skins," Anderson was quoted as saying in the statement.

PETA also plans to post the Anderson pictures in tropical Singapore, whose consumers it said are being increasingly targeted by the fur industry.

Anderson, now a columnist for Jane magazine, is best known for her role in "Baywatch" and was formerly married to Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee. She has been a longtime PETA and animal rights supporter. AP


双肩的冻
及不上
它们的痛
不要穿毛皮
GIVE FUR THE COLD SHOULDER
for PETA FurIsDead.com

Sharon Stone: Did she or didn't she?

LOS ANGELES—Actress Sharon Stone claims a Beverly Hills doctor slandered and libeled her by allegedly telling magazines that he performed cosmetic surgery on her famous face.

The lawsuit cites articles in US Weekly and In Touch magazines that raise the question of whether Stone had a face-lift and suggest it was done by plastic surgeon Dr. Renato Calabria.

The "Basic Instinct" star maintains that such allegations damaged her reputation and hurt her ability to find work. She seeks unspecified damages in the lawsuit, filed Monday in Superior Court.

Neither of the articles cites Calabria as saying he performed the surgery.

Arturi Barens, a lawyer for Calabria, called the lawsuit "not well thought out," and said, "Dr. Calabria has never told anyone that he has (performed) surgery on Sharon Stone."

THE ACTRESS says she was "ridiculed."

Shame

Stone alleges that Calabria or his associates contacted the magazines and that such statements tended to expose her "to shame and ridicule, and discourage others in the film industry from association ... or dealing with (her)."

"Sharon Stone has a reputation for her natural beauty and glamour," according to the lawsuit. "While she certainly respects others' choice to do so, Sharon Stone has never undergone a face-lift in order to improve her physical appearance."

The 46-year-old actress also accuses Calabria of putting the magazine articles on his Web site to "boast" of his purported professional relationship with her.

Barens said Calabria put the articles on the Web site because they highlight a particular kind of face-lift he innovated.

"He has a right to choose any articles that reference his name and his practice," Barens said. AP